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SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1990/ZULQAD 1, 1410 AH

24 PAGES 150 FILLS



The widow of Mohamed Abed Mashal cries at her husband's funeral on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Qadsia's surprise action Withdraws from Amiri Cup

By a staff reporter

QADSIA, the most popular sports club in Kuwait, yesterday staged the biggest surprise in Kuwaiti sports for years by withdrawing from the Amiri Cup competition.

Qadsia reached the semifinal and was ousted by Kazma after drawing the first match 1-1 and losing the second 1-3. The team qualified to play the match for the 3rd and 4th positions against Al Sahel which was to be held yesterday (Friday). But the team did not show up for the match.

Kuwait TV which was to telecast the match live showed empty stadium with one team attending

Al Sahel.

Both Qadsia's matches against Kazma on Sunday and Wednesday last week witnessed unruly scenes with both teams attempting to leave the ground. On Sunday's match, Kazma players went out of the field in protest against the sending off of their leading striker Saleh Al Mesnad for insulting the referee. Another Kazma player was sent off just before the end for rough play. Several other Kazma players were booked for various reasons.

Kazma claimed that one of their players was kicked on the face without ball by a Qadsia player

(Continued on Page 24)

Kuwait hunts sea pirates

KUWAITI Coast Guard patrols are conducting massive search operations around Kuwait's territorial waters to apprehend pirates believed responsible for forcibly boarding and plundering contents of fishermen's boats including their entire catch of fish.

A local daily reported that a Kuwaiti cruiser had lately been the target of just such a piratical operation carried out by a number of masked men. They stripped the cruiser of all its contents, including a mobile communication system.

The pirates operate in close proximity to the places where fishermen undertake their activities.

UN ratings of quality of life

NEW YORK, May 25. (AP) Selected countries and their ratings in categories comprising the "human development index" (HDI), a quality-of-life yardstick devised by the United Nations development programme for a report released yesterday.

Numbers listed are the country's life expectancy in years (as of 1987), adult literacy rate in percentage (1985), real per-capita income in dollars (1987), and their HDI rating based on a combination of the three.

Country	Life expectancy	Adult literacy	Per-capita income	HDI
Costa Rica	75.93	93.76	916	0.885
Uruguay	71.95	5.063	916	0.883
Argentina	71.96	4.647	910	0.883
South Korea	70.95	4.832	903	0.883
Singapore	73.86	12.790	894	0.883
Taiwan	71.96	3.664	885	0.883
Tobago	72.89	4.009	883	0.883
Panama	74.96	2.500	877	0.883
Cuba	69.90	4.624	876	0.883
Mexico	70.87	4.306	861	0.883
Venezuela	73.70	13.843	839	0.883
Kyrgyz	65.88	3.524	801	0.883
Malaysia	70.74	3.849	800	0.883
Si Lanka	71.87	2.053	789	0.883
North Korea	70.90	2.000	789	0.883

Investigations under way Girl abducted

A 13-YEAR-OLD Indian girl who arrived at the Kuwait International Airport from Bombay to visit her parents, was kidnapped, according to reliable sources.

The sources said that the victim had arrived at 10.30 pm last Tuesday and alighted at the Kuwait International Airport No. 1. After having completed the immigration formalities, she was received by her father who escorted her to his car.

However, prior to driving off, the father was approached by a man who claimed to be a security officer and called on the father to go to the immigration department as the suspect claimed that his daughter's formalities were not completed.

On returning to his car, the father found to his dismay that the suspect had abducted his daughter.

Intensive police investigations by the security forces located the girl. Investigations are under way to locate and apprehend the perpetrator. Further details have not been released.



First in Hanover

Rolling Stones band leader Mick Jagger singing during the first concert in Hanover, West Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iran agrees to resume stalled peace talks — a positive response to Saddam's call

NICOSIA, May 25. (AP) Iran has agreed to resume stalled peace talks with Iraq, Deputy Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said today.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, reported Mottaki as saying that Iran had given a "positive response" to a recent letter by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein calling for a resumption of the talks.

Mottaki added that "we hope the Iraqi government has found a political decision for a durable

peace between the two countries," Iran said.

The full contents of Saddam's letter have not been disclosed.

But according to press reports in Tehran and Kuwait, it includes a renewed demand for talks and concedes that the sovereignty of the Shatt-Al-Arab waterway is negotiable.

Iraq's claim over the strategic waterway was the main stumbling block in peace talks which began

UK to deport two Kuwaitis

LONDON, May 25. (Reuters): Two Kuwaitis arrested under Britain's anti-terrorist laws are to be deported, a Home Office spokesman said today.

She declined to comment on newspaper reports linking the two men to

death threats against British author Salman Rushdie.

The author has been in hiding since February last year when Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini ordered Muslims to kill him because his

novel "The Satanic Verses" was held to blaspheme against Islam.

The Kuwaitis were arrested on Tuesday with four other Arabs, two of whom have been released without charge.

"Notices of intention to deport were served on two Kuwaitis last night on grounds (that) their presence here was not conducive to public good on grounds of national security," the spokeswoman said. She gave no date for their expulsion.

Arafat urges urgent action

Kuwait calls on world community to denounce Israeli atrocities

GENEVA, May 25. (Agencies): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat today accused Israel of waging a "war of extermination on all fronts" against the population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and called on the Security Council to take "urgent action" to avoid further bloodshed and end Israeli occupation.

He urged the council to set up a UN "emergency force" to provide international protection of the Arab population in addition to the deployment of a UN observer team with the "purpose of ending completely the Israeli occupation of our land."

Kuwait urged the Security Council to condemn the Israeli practices against the Palestinians in occupied territories and to provide international protection to the Palestinian population under Israeli occupation.

Kuwait's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohamed Al Ossaimi, addressing the special Security Council session to discuss the situation in occupied Arab territories, called on the world community to strongly denounce the Israeli practices which he said were in flagrant violation of the fourth Geneva accord for 1949 on human rights.

Arafat urged immediate moves by the council to prepare an international Middle East peace conference, saying his Palestine Liberation Organisation was committed to deal "flexibly with all international peace initiatives."

Arafat vowed to continue the 30-month-old Arab uprising against Israeli rule until the end of Israel's occupation, saying this was a "sacred right."

The first Western speaker, British Ambassador Sir Christopher Tickell, said Britain was ready "to look at proposals for further UN involvement to ease the tense situation. In the meantime, he said, Israel should use "utmost restraint" to prevent further loss of life and Palestinians should "exercise a corresponding sense of responsibility."

The council debate is likely to focus on proposals to send UN observers to the occupied territories to monitor the situation there. US Secretary of State James Baker said yesterday the United States is ready to discuss the idea of setting up a UN observer force to protect the population.

The State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler issued a new statement saying Baker had in mind temporary visits by UN observers to "check out" the situation in the occupied territories.

But Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, hardening his position, told Israeli radio today that even a temporary UN team would not be allowed in.

No decision was likely to be made in Geneva according to the chief UN spokesman Francois Chuliani. He told reporters it was not expected that a resolution would be discussed or voted on in Geneva. He said that this would come when delegates reconvened in New York, probably Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Palestinian workers stabbed and seriously wounded an Israeli farmer in his West Bank banana grove today while most of the occupied territories were under curfew to prevent unrest.

Bleeding profusely, a dagger in his chest, 45-year-old Zvi Eliaz drove home on a tractor to seek help. Hours later he was out of danger at a Tel Aviv hospital and soldiers had captured three of his four assailants.

Palestinians marched through a dust-choked refugee camp outside Amman today to bury one of three people killed in anti-Israeli unrest in Jordan this week.

Israel will not allow UN observers into the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip even if the Security Council approves creation of a special force to protect Palestinians, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday.

The head of a rare Soviet delegation to Israel said today the killing of seven Arabs by a Jewish gunman and the subsequent deaths of Arab protesters had seriously damaged Soviet-Israeli relations.

The US Senate early today completed congressional action on a bill containing \$400 million in housing guarantees for Israel to help it cope with a flood of Soviet immigrants.



Arafat holds up pictures during his address at the UN meeting in Geneva. (Reuters wirephoto)



A masked Palestinian girl carrying a knife and a stone at a demonstration in the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk near Damascus. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jagmohan quits

Benazir calls for Kashmir plebiscite

NEW DELHI, May 25. (Agencies): The governor of Kashmir state resigned today after his tough tactics failed to quell the Indian-ruled region's Muslim insurgency and was replaced immediately by India's former spy chief.

Jagmohan, appointed governor of Jammu and Kashmir only five months ago, was widely reviled in India's only Muslim-majority state for what militants said were ruthless measures to crush the revolt against Indian rule that flared in January.

He insisted his tough line was the only way to save the country.

Girish Saxena, 63, security adviser to Prime Minister Viswanath Singh and his predecessor Rajiv Gandhi and former head of India's external intelligence agency was named to replace him, a spokesman said.

"If my presence is not likely to serve or help the people of Jammu and Kashmir to join the mainstream, I would prefer to resign and be allowed to leave," the spokesman quoted Jagmohan as saying.

Jagmohan's resignation was apparently caused by the killing of Kashmir's chief Muslim cleric, Moulvi Mohammed Farooq, shot dead at his home on Monday. At least 50 people were killed and 300 injured on Tuesday when security forces fired on his funeral procession in Srinagar, the summer capital.

Militant groups blamed the government for Farooq's killing and the deaths during the funeral.

The resignation could be viewed as an olive branch to militants fighting for the independence of Kashmir and as a prelude to a new political initiative in the troubled state, political analysts said.

The minority government's leftist allies as well as the opposition demanded Jagmohan's dismissal earlier this week, blaming him for excesses committed by security forces.

In Islamabad Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto accused India yesterday of attempting to establish hegemony over the Kashmir region, already teetering at the brink of a new Indo-Pakistani war.

The only way out of the Kashmir impasse is a plebiscite on the question of joining either Pakistan or India, as envisaged in a UN resolution, Benazir said at a news conference one day after her return from a tour of eight countries in the Middle East.

Benazir said that India was using Kashmir as a "pretext" to establish its military might in the region

in the wake of the changes taking place in the world.

"They see that the world communism is in a state of flux. They have world power pretensions. They want to establish their hegemony in this region," she said.

"I have reports that Indian government is using Kashmir as a pretext - for taking aggressive action against Pakistan. The world should take greater

Philippines/Subcontinent Focus — Page 14 —

notice of aggressive statements now being used by Indian leaders including those belonging to the coalition partners of India's ruling party," the prime minister said.

Kashmiri Muslims refused today to install a successor to Farooq until all his followers could attend.

The government imposed a curfew on the entire Kashmir valley except for an area in Srinagar's old city where the ceremony was due to take place today.

The 16-year-old son and hereditary successor of Farooq, said his installation had been postponed indefinitely.



Jagmohan resigns

CBI files criminal charges

NEW DELHI, May 25. (UPI): The government filed criminal charges against six people today, accusing them of forgery and other offences in a 1989 bid to discredit opposition leader V. P. Singh, now India's prime minister, and his son, Ajaya Singh, a government spokesman said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), India's equivalent of the FBI, filed the criminal charges with chief metropolitan magistrate J. N. Malik, the official said.

The spokesman said the CBI filed charges against two senior Indian officials and four others, including George D. McLean, a Canadian resident and a former managing director of the First Trust Corporation Ltd. and Larry Kalb, a US citizen.

"The CBI has received credible information that... some public servants, including those occupying high places in the government of India, entered into a criminal conspiracy with others and in pursuance thereof committed diverse illegal acts of forgery and fabrication of false evidence," said the first information report filed with the magistrate.

It said, "V. P. Singh... was emerging as a potential threat to the electoral fortunes of the then ruling party (former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party).

Four more pull out

KUWAIT, May 25. (Kuna): Four candidates to the National Council elections on June 10 yesterday withdrew bringing the number of candidates down to 455. The Department of Elections and Parliament Affairs announced here.

DAY BY DAY

EMBASSIES of Kuwait direct labourers seeking work in Kuwait to visit doctors approved by the embassy to ascertain that the worker is free of Aids or other diseases.

When these workers arrive in Kuwait, they are once again directed to appear for another medical check up — as if they could have been infected during their flight to Kuwait.

The repetition of the medical check up procedure needs revision and we call upon the Immigration Department, if they are responsible for this duplication to redress this issue as a consideration to the inconvenience caused to expatriate labourers.

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INTERNATIONAL



An artist's concept of the spaceplane heading to dock with a space station. (Reuters wirephoto)

Spaceplane team named

All-out effort ordered

WASHINGTON, May 25. (Reuters) The US government named a team of aerospace firms yesterday to work on research and development of revolutionary aircraft to fly directly from airport runways into space and perhaps travel from New York to Tokyo in a few hours. The firms are Rockwell International Corp., McDonnell Douglas Corp., United Technologies Corp. and General Dynamic Corp.

President George Bush last July ordered an all-out effort to build a national aerospace plane, popularly dubbed "The Orient Express." The Defence Department and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) announced the team and will jointly manage the project.

US Hare Krishna leader indicted

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia, May 25. (AP) A Hare Krishna swami allegedly authorized the murders, kidnappings and beatings of devotees to protect an illegal enterprise that generated at least \$10.5 million from 1981 to 1985, federal authorities said.

Kirthananda Swami Bhaktipada, 54, previously known as Keith G. Ham, was named on five counts of racketeering, including conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire, and six counts of mail fraud in an indictment handed up Thursday by a special grand jury in Elkins.

One of the racketeering counts alleges Bhaktipada was part of a conspiracy to murder Stephen Bryant, a dissident member of the Krishna community who was shot on a Los Angeles street in May 1986.

Bryant was killed after he launched a one-man campaign against Bhaktipada's New Vrindaban community accusing Bhaktipada and commune leaders of drug trafficking, prostitution and child abuse, the indictment said.

Thomas A. Drescher, a former president of New Vrindaban, has been charged with Bryant's murder and is awaiting trial in Los Angeles.

According to the indictment, Bhaktipada also conspired with Drescher in 1983 to kill Charles St. Denis, a fringe member of the community. Drescher was convicted of St. Denis' murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Also named in the indictment were Terry Sheldon, 31, also known as Mr. Scam and Tapahpanja; New Vrindaban Community Inc., Govardhan Inc., and the Cathedral of Healing Inc.

Bhaktipada, Sheldon, Fitzpatrick, the New Vrindaban Community INC. and others illegally made and sold millions of caps, bumper stickers and T-shirts bearing the Snoopy character from the peanuts comic strip and other copyrighted and trademarked logos as part of the community's fund-raising activities, the indictment said.

Devotees, called "pickers," traveled nationwide and to other countries selling the counterfeit items and collecting money, allegedly for a commune school, according to the indictment.

"During the period commencing on about Jan 1, 1981, and ending on about Dec 31, 1985, the New Vrindaban Community's net profit derived from the fraudulent sankirtan (fund-raising) scheme exceeded \$10.5 million," the indictment said.

Bhaktipada was in Bombay, India, on Thursday and not immediately available for comment, said Gadadhar Das, a New Vrindaban spokesman.

"Bhaktipada will return to West Virginia within the next few days. That's all I can say," Gadadhar said.

Comet passes Earth

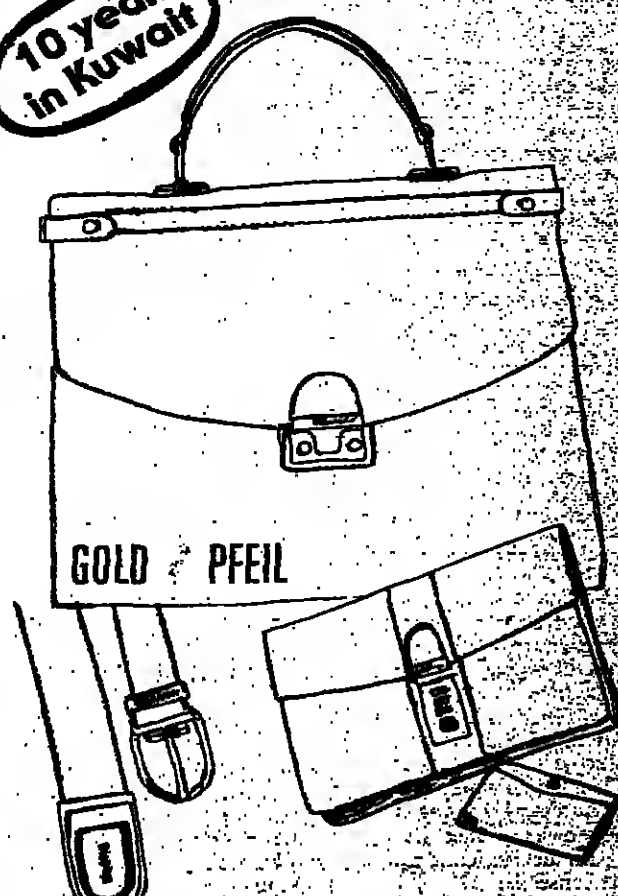
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, May 25. (UPI) Comet Austin, which "lost its oomph" and failed to brighten as much as expected, is sailing out of the solar system on an endless space odyssey, making its closest approach to Earth early today.

The comet's closest approach to Earth was expected around 100 GMT today at a distance of 22 million miles (35 million km) on its way back toward space.

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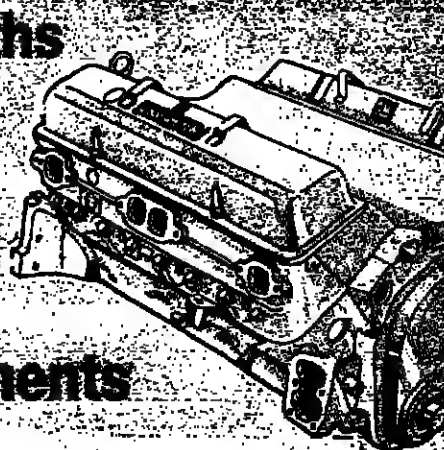
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Study on how fat and lean people store extra calories

BOSTON, May 25. (AP) A study helps explain one of nature's injustices - why some people can eat with abandon and stay slim while others put on weight with the slightest dining no-no.

The answer is individual differences in what the body does with unneeded calories. Some folks tend to store them as fat, others lay them down as muscle.

Since building lean tissue uses up much more energy than storing fat, fat makers grow fatter while muscle makers stay trim. Many people seem to fall somewhere between these two extremes.

The findings come from a unique

experiment. Doctors put 12 pairs of identical twins on diets in which they ate 1,000 more calories each day than their bodies needed, and they got almost no exercise.

When it started, all were slim men in their early 30s with no family history of obesity. After 84 days, they had all eaten 84,000 excess calories, but some had grown fat, while others stayed relatively trim.

The man who gained the most weight put on 29 pounds (13 kilograms) and stored up every extra calorie somewhere on his body. The man who gained the least added 9 pounds (4 kilograms) and stored only 40 per cent of the extra calories.

"It demonstrates for the first time that for a given amount of calories, you have differences in the body's response to the surplus of energy," said Dr. Claude Bouchard, who directed the study. "The individual differences are amazing. They are huge."

The study suggests that individual differences determine to what degree people resist, or succumb, to the excess calories they take in when they eat an ice cream cone or an extra hamburger.

"Almost 40 per cent of the weight gain is explained by the propensity to store in the form of lean or fat tissue," said Bouchard. "This is the single most important variable

that has been presented in the literature to account for differences in weight gain."

Bouchard's study, performed at Laval University in Ste. Foy, Quebec, in 1988 and 1989 was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. In the same issue was another twin study conducted at the University of Pennsylvania and an editorial by Dr. Ehan A.H. Sims of the University of Vermont.

Sims wrote that Bouchard's work "will become a classic study."

Because Bouchard's experiment was conducted on genetically identical twins, he was able to provide more evidence to support the

widely held idea that obesity is at least partly an inherited disorder.

When one man put on a lot of weight in the study, his twin tended to do the same. The study found that there was three times more variation in weight gain between pairs than within pairs.

The study also found close links between twins regarding whether they tended to grow pot bellies or big bottoms.

To the study, the doctors first determined how much each volunteer needed to eat to stay the same weight and then added 1,000 extra calories to each's diet. They lived under around-the-clock supervision in college dor-

mitories and were allowed to take a half-hour walk each day. But otherwise they did nothing more strenuous than play cards or watch television.

Experts believe that other factors also contribute to how people handle calories. These include their metabolic rates - the amount of calories their bodies need to keep going while resting - and how much they fidget.

All the extra blubber did not stick long to the Quebec men. They lost the weight within six months.

In the Pennsylvania study, researchers examined 673 pairs of identical and fraternal twins in Sweden.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

SOUTH BEND, Indiana: Bill Cosby told University of Notre Dame graduates to be grateful to their parents.

"How did you come to live so long?" the 52-year-old comedian-actor asked on Sunday.

"Because they let you live," he answered to applause and laughter from the 2,400 students, parents and faculty members.

Cosby, who has a doctorate in education, received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the university.

"With all of my heart and soul, I want all of you to understand that what you call the world out there is rough," he said.

"It's rough not only in terms of your job but in terms of your personal relationships. You'll have many friends but if your relationship with your mate is 100 per cent of your heart, you'll never need a friend," (AP).

NEW YORK: Joan Collins was to have starred in a film version of her 1988 novel "Prime Time," but Ion Pictures say it has abandoned the project because she balked at the script and ran up huge expenses.

Co-producer Roy Medawar said Ms. Collins, 57, charged \$20,000 worth of clothes to the movie without approval and made script changes without telling the director.

Medawar said in the May 20 issue of People magazine that Ms. Collins also turned down Jacqueline Bisset and Ann-Margret as potential co-stars because she wanted to be the biggest name in the movie.

The actress agent, Irving Azoff, confirmed that Collins had been shelved but that the magazine that she was in "Joan's fault. She wasn't greedy. The producers defaulted on her \$300,000 salary."

"They're amateurs, and they never came up with the money," Azoff added. (AP)

LONDON: A magazine Monday berated the British for their dress and manners, saying European neighbours regard them as the slobs of the continent.

"We go out without combing our hair, wear the same shoes to days running and throw rubbish out of our car windows" com-



Jagger in Hanover

Mick Jagger singing during the first concert of the Rolling Stones in West Germany at the Niedersachsen Stadium in Hanover on May 23. (Reuter wirephoto)

1 hurt as jet window blows out

SEATTLE, May 25. (UPI): A window of a commuter jet with 18 people aboard blew out at 14,000 feet (5,000 m) Wednesday, dragging a man from his seat as other passengers clung to him and forcing the pilot to make a quick descent and emergency landing.

The man, identified as Gayle Sears, suffered minor cuts and bruises and was treated for possible shock before his release from Highline Community Hospital near Sea-Tac airport, said Horizon Air spokesman Nancy Hamilton.

Although Sears was buckled in his seat in the second row on the right side of the plane, the sudden decompression dragged him toward the window as other passengers grabbed him, passengers told officials.

Officials said the window blew out as the Fairchild Metro 3 jet passed over Olympia on a flight from Portland, Oregon, to Seattle. The window popped out completely and cleanly.

"There was no indication that the window had been struck," Hamilton said. "We consider this to be an isolated incident."

Nevertheless, Horizon Air directed that inspections on all of the 33 Fairchild planes in its fleet as the aircraft made their next landings at airports with maintenance centres, Hamilton said.

Charles drinks to talk foreign

LONDON, May 25. (Reuters): Britain's Prince Charles said on Wednesday alcohol made it easier for him to speak foreign languages and confessed to failure when he tried to translate for President Francois Mitterrand.

"I am the kind of Englishman, I think, who finds conversing in a foreign language is made much easier with the assistance of a small alcoholic beverage," the prince, who is heir to the British throne, told a meeting of businessmen.

"Maybe that is why I succeeded in failing my O-level German (exam taken at 16), alcohol was restricted at school."

The prince also told of how the French President asked him to translate an anecdote for then West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt at a lunch at Buckingham Palace.

plained "She," a monthly women's magazine.

It said other Europeans consider British men ill-mannered and chided British women for dressing badly and shouting at their children in public.

If the British want to join the "nouveau European" elite, the magazine said, their manners, attitudes, habits and appearance all need "a complete overhaul."

Tips offered by the magazine include never leaving home unless groomed immaculately, remembering to wish everyone Good Morning, Afternoon or Evening, and walking with "dignity and grace."

Other guidelines: spending more on personal appearance,

displaying family loyalty, drinking more mineral water and never eating junk food in the street. (AP)

MELBOURNE, Australia: Judith Durham, lead singer of the folk-rock group The Seekers during the 1960s, has undergone surgery after being seriously injured in an auto accident.

The 47-year-old Durham, who had such hits as "Georgy Girl" and "I Will Never Find Another You," was resting comfortably after surgery Monday for fractures of the leg, arms and collarbone, an Alfred Hospital spokesman said.

The Australian-born Durham left the group in the late 1960s to

pursue a solo career and had been touring the country with her pianist husband, Ron Edgeworth.

The car in which she was travelling with her husband collided head-on with another vehicle near Melbourne on Sunday. A passenger in the other car was killed. Edgeworth's leg was bruised. (AP)

ATLANTA, Georgia: Ted Turner and Jane Fonda stole the show at the anniversary party for Cable News Network (CNN), the Turner brainchild that turns 10 on June 1.

The Turner Broadcasting chairman and the actress-acrobats drew crowds wherever they turned during the celebration Sunday night at CNN's new headquarters for Turner's media empire.

But the attention did not keep them from being openly affectionate. While a highlight tape of CNN's first 10 years was shown on a giant monitor Ms. Fonda wrapped her arms around Turner's waist and rested her chin on his shoulder and he caressed her hand.

"I have to kind of pinch myself to realize it's gone by so quickly," Turner said in brief remarks about CNN's first decade. "The next 10 won't be quite as exciting as the first 10, but stay tuned." (AP)

TALLAHASSEE, Florida: Governor Bob Martinez jokingly described himself as a "straight shooter" after submitting a urine sample to start his push for a drug-free workplace.

Martinez was the first of about 45 people in the governor's office scheduled to submit to the drug tests. Under the mandatory program, employees producing positive results will be followed by a more detailed confirmation test.

Employees in the governor's office were notified in January they would be subject to the test, said Press Secretary Jon Peck. The governor's executive order March 26 served as 60-day notice to workers.

Results of his tests will be available by June 10, but won't be made public his office said. (AP)

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota: Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary says the folk group's sing-along "Puff the Magic Dragon" has two meanings, and neither is about drugs as once rumoured.

"It's ostensibly a song about the moment of loss of innocence. When that moment occurs, it is sad indeed," the singer told 300 Augsburg College graduates. "But it's about something else. It is about the loss of our ideals."



Seeing double

Top American model Jerry Hall poses next to the first wax model of herself at Madame Tussaud's London, May 24. The model is wearing a black and white bathing costume from her own name range in swimwear. (Reuter wirephoto)

Drug remedy for alcoholism soon: expert

VANCOUVER, May 25. (Reuters): One of the world's top alcoholism researchers predicted on Wednesday that medically-approved drugs that kill the craving for alcohol would be available within three to five years.

Dr Ernest Noble, director of the alcohol research centre at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), added that prescription drugs destroying the desire for illegal narcotics such as cocaine would be on the market soon afterwards.

"Alcoholics could take the prescription drugs a couple of times a week or maybe once a day. Their yearning to drink and go on drunken binges would be drastically reduced," he said in an interview.

Noble said drugs now available or modifications of present drugs probably could be used to ease the craving for alcohol.

"They should be available within, let's say, three to five years," said Noble, a biochemist and psychiatrist.

Noble, 61, is joint leader of a team of nine researchers from UCLA and the University of Texas, which last month produced a report linking alcoholism to genetic makeup.

The team's six-year research effort, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, included a study of the brain tissue of 70 dead people, half of whom were alcoholics.

The investigation showed that 69 per cent of

the alcoholics had a relatively rare gene known as the dopamine D2 receptor gene. Noble described the incidence of the gene among alcoholics as statistically significant.

Noble said he and his fellow researchers were now busy taking blood samples of living alcoholics and their children as well as cocaine addicts to see which of them has the gene.

They are also trying to determine whether a combination of genes - included the dopamine D2 gene - made people more susceptible to alcoholism.

"We have to find out what, if any, is the defect in the brain" that could predispose people to alcoholism or drug addiction, Noble said.

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Colombian policemen carry a colleague after a car bomb exploded near the Medellin Intercontinental Hotel, May 24. (Reuter wirephoto)



A member of the National Police Elite Force views the destruction caused by the bomb outside the luxury hotel. (Reuter wirephoto)

Climate of terror in Colombia

BOGOTA, May 25. (Reuter): Drug traffickers and leftist guerrillas have created a climate of terror in Colombia ahead of Sunday's presidential election, stepping up a campaign of random bombings and shootings.

A man detonated a powerful car bomb in an apparent suicide attack at a police checkpoint yesterday, in front of a luxury hotel in the drug capital Medellin. He killed himself and at least four others. Twenty-four people were reported injured.

Another bomb rocked Medellin just before midnight, causing extensive damage to buildings in a commercial district in the city's wealthy El Poblado district.

Police at the scene said unidentified gunmen in a car approached the building about five minutes before the blast.

They ordered the night watchmen to leave, planted a powerful explosive device and fled, the police said.

The bomb destroyed the Ovni building, which local residents and police sources said belonged to Medellin drug cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar. No injuries or

Drug abuse no longer spiralling wildly out of control in US

WASHINGTON, May 25. (AP): Drug-related deaths dropped dramatically in the last three months of 1989 and were down about 17 per cent for the year, according to preliminary figures from medical examiners nationwide.

The data mean that drug abuse "is no longer spiralling wildly out of control," said David Tell, deputy chief of staff to William Bennett, the director of national drug control

before the blast. They ordered the night watchmen to leave, planted a powerful explosive device and fled, the police said.

The bomb destroyed the Ovni building, which local residents and police sources said belonged to Medellin drug cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar. No injuries or

policy. "Bodies are not piling up as a result of cocaine or any other drug."

However, Tell said that the good news will not translate into any reduction in the \$10.6 billion the administration hopes to spend next year to fight the war on drugs.

"I wouldn't take all the troops home on the basis of it," he said. "Notwithstanding the sharpness of the drop, it's a sharp drop from

unprecedented high numbers. The numbers are still too big."

The number of drug mentions by medical examiners still remains higher than it was in 1987, according to the available statistics from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

The medical examiners reported a total of 2,147 mentions of drugs in deaths recorded in the fourth quarter of 1989, a 35 per cent drop from 3,299 in the third quarter.

murder liberal candidate Cesar Gaviria, the favourite in Sunday's presidential elections and a supporter of a tough anti-drug crusade.

The elections will test the public's resolve to push on with President Virgilio Barco's bloody nine-month-old confrontation with drug rings.

The government says feared drug traffickers who declared war on the state are trying to sow panic among the population and destabilise the country.

Police rounded up hundreds of suspects in the capital Bogota as part of a nationwide plan to deter fresh attacks.

Search for drugs

New substances hold promise

LOS ANGELES, May 25. (AP): Sponges, algae and other ocean creatures are yielding new substances that hold promise as medicines against cancer, psoriasis, parasites and infectious diseases such as AIDS, scientists say.

The search for drugs from the sea focuses on organisms that lack physical defenses and therefore must produce chemicals to protect themselves against predators, said John Faulkner, a marine chemist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California.

Manoalides could be on the market in three or four years, and a few other drugs derived from marine creatures are expected within 10 years, said biochemist David Attaway, director of marine biotechnology for the National Sea Grant College programme in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Faulkner and Attaway were among 35 scientists at a workshop on drugs from the sea this month at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

"Increasingly, scientists are turning to marine organisms in their search for new pharmaceuticals because of diminishing returns from continued screening of land-based plants and animals," UCSB spokesman David Salisbury said.

UCSB workshop participants reported they have identified marine-derived drugs using funds from the Sea Grant programme, which Attaway said has spent \$700,000 to \$800,000 per year on such research since 1977.

Chemist Phil Crews, of the University of California, Santa Cruz extracted two compounds from sponges near Fiji and Vanuatu in the south Pacific.

In test-tube experiments, the substances appeared effective in combatting tape worms and other parasites, including some that plague cattle and sheep. The chemicals also show some ability to fight viral diseases, and one of them can inhibit the activity of an enzyme that lets the AIDS virus reproduce itself.

William Fenical, of Scripps, said a number of marine bacteria show promise as antibiotics.

Jay Burgess, of UCSB, is studying how calcium moves and is deposited inside red algae. Attaway said that might help scientists understand and treat diseases such as arthritis and lupus.

Richard Moore, of the University of Hawaii, outlined efforts to use blue-green algae to produce tumour-fighting substances. Preliminary tests show "a number of very active compounds," Attaway said.

Faulkner said the government is investigating one substance derived from blue-green algae as a possible anti-AIDS medicine. Other substances purified from sea plants or animals are being developed as possible drugs to fight fungal infections, Faulkner said.

"About 50 per cent of the drugs in use at the moment are from natural sources," mostly

"They don't have spines. They don't have shells. They can't run. They're just a blob on the reef, and they look like food but they're not eaten," Faulkner said. "When we see something like that, we say, 'Ah, this must be chemically protected.'"

Manoalides—a class of anti-inflammatory drugs derived from sponges that live near Palau in the north Pacific—now are being tested on humans with psoriasis, an unsightly thickening of the skin that causes painful cracks and blistering.

MEDICAL FILE

Parrot hope for autistic children: Alex is 13 going on 21, and talks numbers colours and even turkey with his trainer, a university researcher who hopes her work with the African grey parrot some day may help autistic children.

Alex's lexicon features 80 of his favourite things and some of his not-so-favourite. Mimicking her trainer's Boston accent, Alex's vocabulary is a cross between wise-guy chattering and grumbling.

One moment Alex is as liable to be as humble as the next parrot, saying simply, "Wanna cracker." The next moment, he might be a hasser, declaring, "you're a turkey," when some human tries his patience.

"These birds have the personality of a 2 1/2-year-old," said trainer Irene Pepperburg, a visiting northwestern assistant professor of anthropology. "He obviously has a short attention span"—evidenced by the keys, rocks, grapes and nuts he's strewn over her laboratory floor.

She bought Alex from a pet shop when he was a baby and soon began her research, training him through a modelling technique. She said the technique used with Alex might some day be used with dysfunctional children, including the autistic, who fail to form relationships with others.

"The idea of understanding how another form of intelligence works will help us understand how all forms of intelligence work," she said Wednesday.

Thomas Zentall, a University of Kentucky psychology professor, has researched animal cognition. Pepperburg's procedures "may be the critical way in which (autistic) children learn language," he said. (AP)

Muscular dystrophy process identified: The most severe form of muscular dystrophy may begin when a key protein is destroyed and cannot anchor itself on the surface of muscle cells, a new study suggests.

Without that protein, the cells may not be able to handle calcium normally, leading to the muscle destruction that marks the disease, researchers said.

Further study of the disease process may provide new leads for therapies, said researcher Kevin Campbell.

Campbell and colleagues report the work in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature.

The work dealt with duchenne muscular dystrophy, the most common and severe form of dystrophy. It is a genetic disorder that strikes boys almost exclusively, appearing in about one in every 3,500 male births in the United States.

Chimp virus closely related to Aids: A recently isolated chimpanzee virus is more closely related to the human AIDS virus than other Aids-related monkey viruses are, and may be a "missing link" between human and primate versions, scientists said.

However, the finding does not resolve the question of whether the AIDS virus originated in humans or in animals, scientists said. Analysis of the chimpanzee virus is presented in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature by scientists from Gabon and from the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

antibiotics derived from bacteria or fungi that were genetically altered, he said.

Some medicines were developed from sea creatures even before the Sea Grant programme started its search in 1977.

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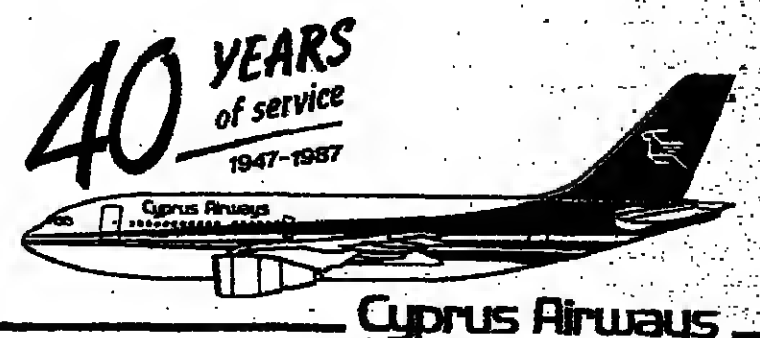
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UK plans to mark Dunkirk miracle

DOVER, England, May 25. (Reuters) The "Little Ships of Dunkirk" sailed again yesterday, from the white cliffs of Dover to the French Channel port where they plucked a defeated army to safety and changed the course of World War Two.

Seventy-six veteran pleasure boats and cabin cruisers were going back to mark the 50th anniversary of what Britain's wartime leader, Winston Churchill, called a miracle.

According to British navy figures, 338,000 British and French soldiers, driven back to the sea by advancing German divisions, were evacuated under fire from Dunkirk during the nine days of "Operation Dynamo," which began on May 27, 1940.

It had been thought that no more than 30,000 men could be saved. But a motley flotilla of about 700 motor boats, fishing vessels, pleasure steamers and paddle boats - crewed by civilian volunteers - sailed to help the evacuation.

The soldiers they rescued enabled Britain to stay in the war. Dover's white cliffs and harbour walls were lined with cheering spectators as the 76 surviving boats set sail.

The commodore of the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships, David Rolt, sent a radio message to crews: "our plans have come together. Enjoy your day. It should be wonderful."

On Sunday, up to 70,000 Dunkirk veterans are expected to gather on the beaches near the port for a religious service to mark the anniversary.

The Little Ships will form a circle offshore into which a wreath will be dropped from a helicopter in memory of thousands who were killed during the evacuation.

The motor yacht Sylvia, badly shot up and laden with soldiers, limped back into Ramsgate and the harbour master begged her skipper not to return to Dunkirk.

He insisted on going back, saying: "I have seen the sea red with human blood, severed arms and legs, a sight I shall never forget. The Lord is with us, the sea is calm and if she goes down, I shall go with her."

In his book "The Little Ships of Dunkirk," a remarkable catalogue of many of the surviving boats, author Christian Brann also tells how the motor yacht Naiad Errant was loaded with British "Tommy" (soldiers) when her engines failed.

As soldiers struggled to restart the engines, the skipper ordered the cabin doors to be torn off and used as paddles.

Many of the boats did not have a compass but they were guided to Dunkirk by the huge pall of smoke from oil storage tanks in the port set ablaze by the German bombardment.

Where warships and large transports could not get close to the beaches, the little ships shuttled soldiers out from the shores as German dive-bombers kept up a devastating attack.

It was described in a contemporary British newspaper report as "the most remarkable withdrawal in military history" and the expression "the Dunkirk spirit" was coined to describe the British ability to pull together against overwhelming odds.

Now, 50 years later, up to 80 of the surviving little ships are going back to the spot where, without them, the war might have taken a different course.

Whenever you mention Dunkirk, particularly to older people, a strange emotion comes over them," said art dealer Martin Summers, who found and restored the Bluebird of Chelsea.

Bluebird had a history even before being sent to Dunkirk. She was built by the British racing driver, Malcolm Campbell, who commissioned her in 1931 as a present to himself after breaking the world land-speed record.

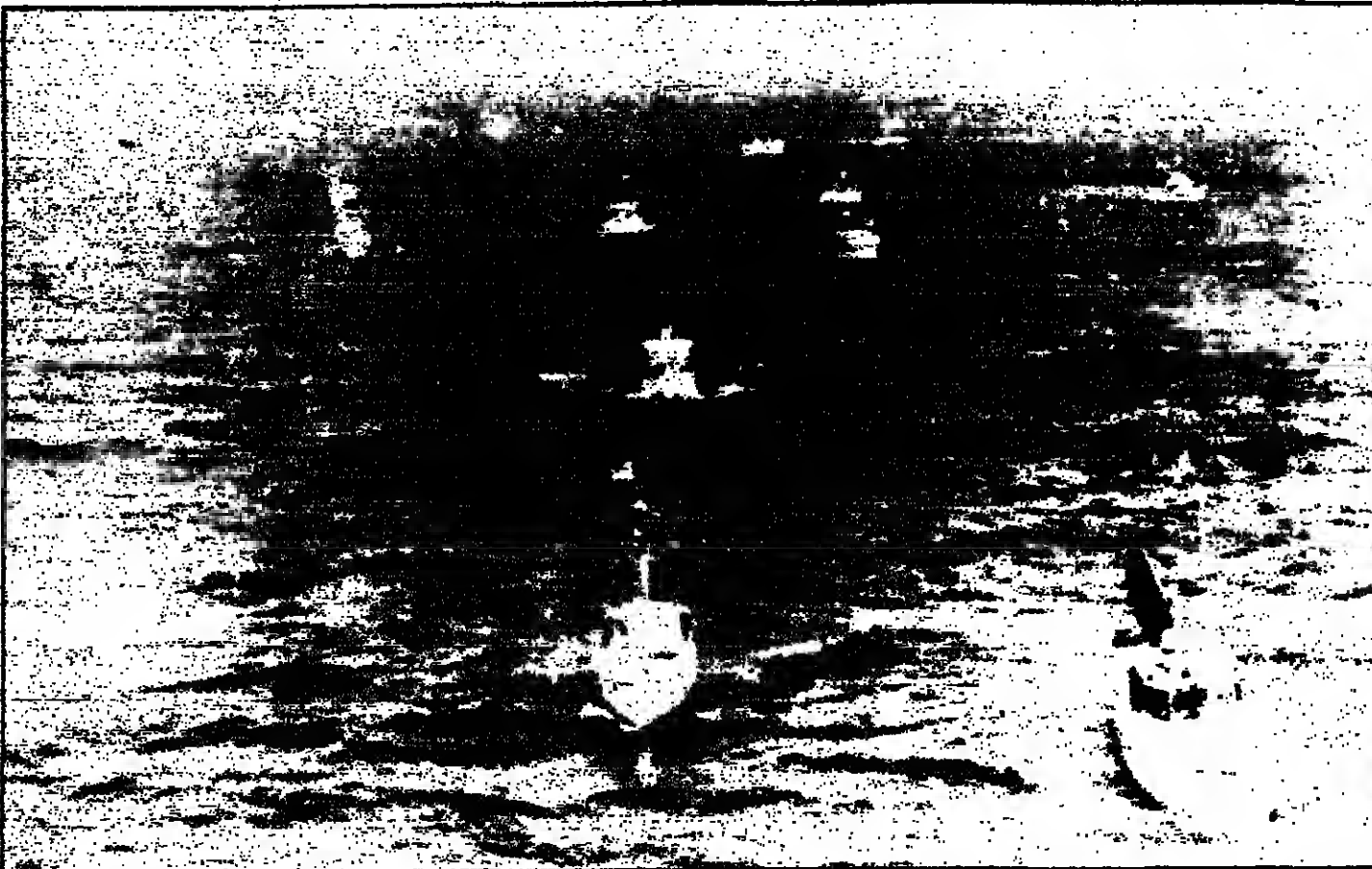
Boy, 11, kills tyrant father

PRESTON, England, May 25. (Reuters) An 11-year-old British boy blasted his 70-year-old father to death with a shotgun after suffering severe beatings and abuse, his lawyer told a court on Wednesday.

Lawyer Richard Henriques said the father, a horse trader in northern England, administered a reign of terror, was habitually drunk and had an uncontrollable temper.

"He would kick the boy black and blue and drag him about the house by his ears," he added.

The boy, who was not named in court, fired at his father's chest after an argument last January. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter on grounds of provocation.



The veteran flotilla of 76 small ships including cabin cruisers and pleasure boats make their way across the English Channel May 24. (Reuters wirephoto)

HDTV rules set but key standards open

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 25. (Reuters) A global broadcasting watchdog has set five basic rules for a sharper, brighter television system of the future, but failed to agree on two crucial standards.

Industry analysts said the result at a meeting of delegates from 166 countries here this week made it more likely that Japan, Western Europe and the United States would go ahead and develop their own systems of High Definition Television (HDTV), which could not be compatible.

The gathering of the International Radio Committee (CCIR), the only world body which has studied all problems related to HDTV, said on Wednesday the number of horizontal scan lines on the new sets and the frequency that an image flashed on the screen were not settled.

Two rival systems have already been

developed -- Japan's Muse and the European Economic Community's Mac. The United States is just starting to develop an HDTV system for its own.

The more than 500 delegates to this week's meeting unanimously adopted five recommendations put forward by a CCIR working group to create a global standard for HDTV, which may replace current television systems in the next century.

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Superconductivity

Scientists report gain

HOUSTON, Texas, May 25, (AP) Researchers say they have increased the amount of current that bulk samples of "high temperature" superconducting materials can carry, a possible step toward making them practical.

In one experiment, a sample of experimental superconductor carried 10 times the amount of current that standard superconducting materials do, the University of Houston said in a statement.

Superconductors are materials that carry electricity without resistance. The materials discovered so far must be made very cold to work. Recently, "high-temperature" superconductors have been created that operate at higher temperatures than standard superconductors, which are widely used in

medical technology and other areas.

One problem with high-temperature materials is that the amount of electrical current they can carry has been limited.

But University of Houston researchers say that by using special techniques to prepare a sample of superconducting material, they produced high current-carrying capacity at both very low and relatively high temperatures.

For example, at about minus 451 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 270 Centigrade), the sample carried 20 million amperes per square centimetre of cross-section when exposed to a magnetic field of a certain strength, and 8 million amps per square centimetre in a field 10 times as strong.

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Lanka fares well on quality of life

Developing world report card

NEW YORK, May 25, (AP) Sri Lanka, Costa Rica and Botswana head a list of developing countries that fare well in their quality of life despite limited resources, according to a United Nations report issued yesterday.

Brazil, Pakistan and Nigeria, meanwhile, have "conspicuously failed" in translating economic resources into human well-being.

The report, prepared by the UN Development Programme, calculated 130 nations "human development index" by charting life expectancy, adult literacy and purchasing power over a 30-year period ending in 1987.

Japan parlayed its unparalleled prosperity into the top rating, although there was little difference in the ranking of industrialised countries and the report focuses on Third World nations. Niger, hamstrung by one of the world's lowest average incomes (\$452 per capita), ranked last in human development.

Many developing nations have seen their growth stunted by overspending on military and inefficient government, while others have achieved significant human progress on similar budgets, the report says.

"Our intention was to get countries to sort out their priorities," project director Mahbub Ul Haq of the UNDP said in an interview. "We'll hear both appreciation and screams, because this is the first report on this subject that is completely honest."

"There's been tremendous progress in developing nations in the last 30 years, but there's also been complacency. There is a huge backlog of human deprivation in the developing world."

Sri Lanka, with its long-time commitment to health and education spending, "shows best that human development can be reached on fairly low income," the study says.

Its gross national product is only 92nd among the 130 countries, but its human development index (47th) ranks high in the Third World and exceeds that of wealthier countries such as Saudi Arabia, Libya and Brazil, it had 87 per cent literacy and a life expectancy of 71 years, compared with 43 per cent and 59 years for neighbouring India.

The UNDP study did not measure such factors as political freedom, crime or civil unrest. Both Sri Lanka and Colombia, among other nations, were praised despite their ongoing domestic conflicts.

Costa Rica, which has no standing army, ranks a high 28th because its life expectancy is 75 years, its literacy rate is 93 per cent and its adjusted average income is \$3,760. Botswana's human development is ranked among the highest in Africa, reflected in its "remarkable progress" in literacy (67 per cent) and a track record of speedy relief for drought-stricken villages.

Other countries the report says achieved relatively high levels of human development by 1987 within a "reasonably democratic" framework include Uruguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, Venezuela, Jamaica, Colombia, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey, Tunisia, Mauritius and Zimbabwe.

Pakistan has a life expectancy of 58 — below the average of 61 years for low-income countries — and spent only 2.2 per cent of its gross national product in 1986 on education and health, compared with 6.7 per cent of military.

Despite an influx of oil money beginning in the 1970s, Nigeria's federal expenditures have been "unambiguously pro-rich," according to the report. The African nation provides "a clear example of failed trickle-down — of missed opportunities for human development," it says.

Officials from the UN missions of Brazil and Pakistan failed to return a reporter's telephone calls this week about the findings, and a Nigerian spokesman declined to comment.

The report notes significant progress in the developing world over the 30-year period. Life expectancy rose from 46 years in 1960 to 62 in 1987, the under-5 mortality rate was halved and primary health care was extended to 62 per cent of the population.

The average real income in developing countries has slipped to only 6 per cent of the industrialised world's.

The year-long, \$800,000 study also found:

- There are eight times more soldiers than physicians in the Third World, physicians outnumber soldiers in developed countries.
- Women face worse discrimination in the developing world than elsewhere.



Roh (left) and Emperor Akihito attend a welcoming ceremony at the state guest house May 24. (Reuters wirephoto)

Akihito offers 'regrets'

Roh urges Japan to end prejudice

SEOUL, May 25, (Agencies): South Korea today called for Koreans to put aside memories of harsh Japanese rule and accept belated Japanese expressions of regret.

But not all Koreans were willing to accept the Japanese emperor's professed regret for 35 years of brutal rule. Dissidents and opposition lawmakers accused Japan of "diplomatic rhetoric."

Korean leaders, pragmatically looking toward future relations with its neighbouring country, said it was time to "untie the knot on the past."

"We should clear away dregs of the dark past, put the past behind us," said a statement issued by presidential spokesman Lee Soo-Jong.

Bitter and emotional memories of the 1910-1945 colonial rule of Japan have long played a significant role in relations between South Korea and Japan.

South Korean President Roh Tae-woo's three-day state visit to Tokyo is the second by a South Korean head of government since the two nations established relations in 1965. It was controversial among many Koreans who demanded Japanese Emperor Akihito apologise for his nation's militaristic past.

Thousands of radical students staged violent anti-Japanese protests yesterday, hurling Japanese flags and demanding Roh cancel his "humiliating" visit to Tokyo. Elderly citizens staged noisy protests for 10 days in front of the Japanese embassy, culminating in an attempted suicide.

Japanese Emperor Akihito, speaking at a state dinner last night honouring Roh, expressed "deepest regret" for Japan's harsh colonial rule of the Korean peninsula.

Earlier, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed

"sincere remorse and honest apologies" for Japanese actions that "inflicted unbearable suffering and sorrow on the people of the Korean peninsula."

Although Koreans felt Akihito had not delivered the explicit apology hoped for, many political leaders said it should be accepted as a sincere effort to pursue co-operation to future Japanese-Korean relations.

Korean newspapers devoted front page coverage today to the remarks by the Japanese emperor and prime minister. Live television coverage was provided of the dinner at which the remarks were made and of Roh's speech this morning to the Japanese Parliament.

Roh called on Japan today to end its lingering prejudice against Koreans and heal the wounds of Japan's harsh World

War II era colonisation of Korea.

"There still remains a psychological barrier that hinders the evolution of genuine friendship between our two peoples," Roh said in a speech before the Japanese Diet, or Parliament, on the second day of his three-day visit.

But Roh said Japanese-Korean friendship will only be possible when the Japanese accept the nearly 700,000 Koreans living in Japan as equals.

Roh also urged Japan to boost imports of Korean products and transfer more high technology to its neighbour.

"I hope that Japan will lower its tariffs and non-tariff barriers for imports of Korean products," Roh told business leaders in Tokyo.

He said participation in big projects by Korean firms would also help reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Japan says its trade surplus with South Korea in 1989 stood at \$3.57 billion out of two-day exchanges totalling almost 30 billion.

He proposed the two countries set up a bilateral committee to promote technology transfer.

Radical students shouting anti-Japanese slogans torched flags and fought police with firebombs yesterday to protest President Roh's trip to Japan, police and news reports said.

A three judge-panel at the Seoul district criminal court sentenced Im Choo-Suk, 23, to 10 years in prison after convicting him of violating the national security law and laws against illegal demonstrations and violence.

He was convicted of sending a woman student to North Korea to represent his organisation at a World Youth Festival last summer.

The journalists made the announcement at simultaneous

press conferences in Tokyo, where the ship is docked, and in Tokyo.

Earlier this year, Japan's chief cabinet secretary, Misoji Sakamoto, said Japan would not allow the ship to make a needed port call before heading for China if it planned to broadcast pro-democracy messages to the mainland.

"We feel that this kind of activity, if it is done, is regrettable, and the ship — which publicly confesses to violate international law — is a ship unwelcome to Japan," Foreign Ministry spokesman Taiso Watanabe said today.

The journalists said the mission was scuttled because the 1,200-ton vessel could not get necessary broadcast equipment. The ship, sponsored by France's Actual magazine and other publishing organisations, left France March 17 and arrived in Keelung harbour in northern Taiwan May 13 to take on supplies, including a crucial transmitter sent from France.

Taiwanese customs authorities refused to release the transmitter on the grounds that unauthorised radio broadcasts from the high seas would violate international agreements.

China lauds US decision

Renewal of MFN status

BEIJING, May 25, (Reuters): Premier Li Peng today lauded President George Bush's renewal of China's most favoured nation (MFN) trading status and said Beijing would try to restore and develop relations with the United States.

State television showed a smiling Li telling a Japanese businessman that Bush's decision was "wise" and good for China, the United States and Hong Kong.

Sino-US relations have been strained since Chinese troops crushed pro-democracy demonstrations here last year. Washington has kept up a hail of criticism against China's human rights record and Beijing has accused US of "interference."

"The decision of President Bush to renew China's most favoured nation status is a wise one," television showed Li telling Takamatsu Morita, president of a Japanese trade promotion body. "We welcome and appreciate it," Li added.

He said the move was good for the prosperity of Hong Kong, which reverts to China in 1997. Much Sino-US trade is routed through Hong Kong and many Western trading companies are based there.

"The Chinese government will make efforts to restore and develop Sino-US relations as we did before," Li added.

Bush announced yesterday that China should retain its special status for one year. Millions of Chinese jobs and the nation's large trade surplus with the United States — estimated to reach \$9 billion this year — were riding on Bush's decision.

Western businessmen in Beijing said the US decision would both protect foreign business in China and help preserve what remains of China's tattered economic reform programme.

It means that Chinese exports to the United States will continue to enjoy low tariffs.

China exported \$12 billion worth of goods to the United States last year. In the first quarter of this year's exports surged 50 per cent to \$3.4 billion, from the same 1989 period.

Foreign diplomats in Beijing said China hopes its next foreign policy goal, an end to Western sanctions, will be speeded up by MFN's renewal.

A summit between seven major industrial nations, the "Group of Seven", would result in a gradual repeal of the sanctions which include a freeze on official loans, military co-operation and high-level visits, said the diplomats.

They added that an end to the sanctions would bolster the position of 85-year-old senior leader Deng Xiaoping who ordered last June's crackdown and appeared to be controlling China's current policy of appeasement towards the West.

China will tighten religious controls in the Western region of Xinjiang to halt a rise in separatism and attempts to erode communist authority, an official report said.

The Xinjiang Daily, in an edition reaching Beijing yesterday also accused Muslims in the region of forging links with foreigners. It said infiltration under the guise of religious support was getting worse.

Police, meanwhile, rearrested a prominent dissident in what appears to be an attempt to stifle any opposition to the anniversary of last year's crackdown on the democracy movement, Chinese sources said.

Liu Qing, freed last December at the end of a 10-year jail sentence for "counter-revolutionary crimes," was arrested about 10 days ago in Beijing, the sources said.

Japan, Taiwan blamed

Democracy ship is abandoned, for sale

TOKYO, May 25, (AP): A group of European journalists who wanted to broadcast pro-democracy messages into China from a radio ship named "Goddess of Democracy" said today they had been forced to abandon the plan and would sell the vessel.

The journalists said they spent about \$1.5 million to bring the ship named after a statue erected in Beijing's Tiananmen Square by Chinese student protesters last year, to Asia. They blamed Japan and Taiwan for refusing to assist the vessel and accused those countries of giving it to pressure from China.

"At a time when, in Africa, South America and Eastern Europe, the last walls of totalitarianism are collapsing, we are very surprised that a regime responsible for the worst civil massacre of the decade would find support so easily in this part of the world," said Pascal Dupont, one of the project's organisers in Tokyo.

"This boat is now the victim of Beijing who forced all Asian governments to stop us," said Christophe Nick, a French journalist and organiser in Taipei.

The journalists made the announcement at simultaneous

press conferences in Tokyo, where the ship is docked, and in Tokyo.

Earlier this year, Japan's chief cabinet secretary, Misoji Sakamoto, said Japan would not allow the ship to make a needed port call before heading for China if it planned to broadcast pro-democracy messages to the mainland.

"We feel that this kind of activity, if it is done, is regrettable, and the ship — which publicly confesses to violate international law — is a ship unwelcome to Japan," Foreign Ministry spokesman Taiso Watanabe said today.

The journalists said the mission was scuttled because the 1,200-ton vessel could not get necessary broadcast equipment. The ship, sponsored by France's Actual magazine and other publishing organisations, left France March 17 and arrived in Keelung harbour in northern Taiwan May 13 to take on supplies, including a crucial transmitter sent from France.

Taiwanese customs authorities refused to release the transmitter on the grounds that unauthorised radio broadcasts from the high seas would violate international agreements.

NEW YORK, May 25, (AP) Selected countries and their ratings in categories comprising the "Human Development Index" (HDI), a quality-of-life yardstick devised by the United Nations development programme for a report released yesterday.

Numbers listed are the countries' life expectancy in years (as of 1987), adult literacy rate in percentage (1985), real per-capita income in dollars (1987), and their HDI rating based on a combination of the three.

	Life	Lit.	Income	HDI
Developing countries:				
Costa Rica	75	93	3,760	.916
Uruguay	71	95	5,063	.916
Argentina	71	96	4,647	.910
South Korea	70	95	4,852	.903
Singapore	73	86	12,790	.899
Trinidad and Tobago	71	96	3,664	.885
Panama	72	89	4,809	.883
Cuba	74	96	2,500	.877
Mexico	69	90	4,624	.876
Venezuela	70	87	4,306	.861
Kuwait	73	70	13,843	.839
Jamaica	74	82	2,506	.824
Colombia	65	88	3,524	.801
Malaysia	70	74	3,849	.800
Albania	72	85	2,000	.790
Sri Lanka	71	87	2,053	.789
North Korea	70	90	2,000	.789
Mauritius	69	83	2,617	.788
Brazil	65	78	4,307	.784
Paraguay	67	88	2,403	.784
Thailand	66	91	2,576	.783
United Arab Emirates	71	60	12,191	.782
Iraq	65	89	2,400	.759
Ecuador	65	85	2,487	.758
Peru	63	85	3,129	.753
Jordan	67	75	3,161	.748
Turkey	65	74	3,781	.745
Nicaragua	68	86	2,509	.743
Mongolia	64	90	2,000	.737
South Africa	61	70	4,981	.731
Libya	62	66	7,250	.719
China	70	58	2,124	.716
Philippines	64	86	1,878	.714
Saudi Arabia	64	55	8,320	.702
Dominican Republic	67	78	1,750	.699
Syria	66	63	3,350	.691
Iran	66	51	3,300	.660
Tunisia	66	55	2,741	.657
El Salvador	64	72	1,733	.651
Botswana	69	71	2,496	.646
Algeria	63	80	2,633	.609
Vietnam	62	80	1,000	.608
Guatemala	63	55	1,957	.592
Indonesia	57	74	1,660	.591
Lesotho	57	73	1,252	.580
Zimbabwe	59	74	1,184	.576
Honduras	65	59	1,119	.563
Burma	61	75	732	.561
Bolivia	54	75	1,580	.548
Oran	57	30	7,730	.535
Cuba	52	62	2,068	.525
Laos	49	84	1,000	.506
Egypt	62	45	1,357	.501
Morocco	62	34	1,761	.489
Zambia	54	76	717	.481
Kenya	59	60	794	.481
Cameroon	52	61	1,381	.474
Cambodia	49	75	1,000	.471
Papua New Guinea	54	63	1,843	.471
Madagascar	54	68	634	.440
India	59	43	1,053	.439
Pakistan	58	30	1,385	.432
Tanzania	54	54	405	.413
Namibia	56	30	1,500	.404
Congo	49	63	756	.395
Ivory Coast	53	42	1,123	.393
South Yemen	52	53	1,000	.369
Ghana	55	54	681	.360
Haiti	55	38	775	.356
Uganda	52	38	511	.354
Togo	54	41	670	.337
Liberia	53	35	676	.333
North Yemen	52	25	1,250	.328
Nigeria	52	43	668	.322
Bangladesh	51	33	883	.318
Angola	45	41	1,500	.304
Rwanda	49	47	571	.304
Zaire	53	62	220	.294
Ethiopia	42	66	454	.282
Senegal	47	68	468	.274
Nepal	52	26	722	.273
Central African Rep	46	41	591	.238
Sudan	51	23	750	.255
Malawi	48	42	476	.250
Industrialised countries:				
Japan	78	99	13,135	.996
Sweden	77	97	13,780	.987
Switzerland	77	99	15,403	.986
Netherlands	77	99	12,661	.984
Canada	77	99	16,375	.983
Norway	77	99	15,940	.983
Australia	76	99	11,782	.978
France	76	99	13,961	.974
Denmark	76	99	15,119	.971
United Kingdom	76	99	12,270	.970
Finland	75	99	12,795	.967
West Germany	75	99	14,730	.967
New Zealand	75	99	10,541	.966
Italy	76	99	10,682	.966
Belgium	75	99	13,140	.966
Spain	77	95	8,989	.965
Ireland	74	99	8,566	.961
Austria	74	99	12,386	.961
United States	76	96	17,615	.961
Israel	76	95	9,182	.957
East Germany	74	99	8,900	.953

Kim wins re-election

Son Kim Jong-Il must wait

TOKYO, May 25, (Reuters): North Korea's "great leader" Kim Il-Sung began new four-year presidential term yesterday, defiantly lauding communism as he kept his iron grip on power.

Kim, now 78 and the world's longest surviving autocratic ruler, quashed speculation that after 42 years at the top he was ready to hand over to his son.

The younger Kim, "dear leader" Kim Jong-Il, has long been groomed to take over in what would be the communist world's first dynastic succession. The state propaganda organs even named a flower after him.

But his father made it clear yesterday that the time was not yet ripe.

With communism crumbling throughout Eastern Europe, Korea-watchers said, the veteran revolutionary clearly decided his isolated, reclusive state still needed his experienced hand at



Kim, shown in file photo, won the presidential election in North Korea. (Reuters filephoto)

the helm. The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), reporting on yesterday's special session of the Supreme People's Assembly, said deputies rose as one to hail Kim's re-election.

Scientists find new crops can grow on salty soil: useful in Third World nations

WASHINGTON, May 25, (AP): Scientists are finding new crops grown on salty soil and irrigated with saltwater, discoveries that may be useful in Third World countries with long ocean shorelines, scarce fresh water and poor transport.

The US National Research Council has just published "Saline Agriculture," the results of a four-year study of work in more than 30 countries of hundreds of plants that can tolerate salt.

The report was done by a panel set up by the council's board on science and technology for international development, headed by J.R. Goodio of

Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

One contributor, James O'Leary of the environmental research laboratory in Tucson, Arizona, warned that using seawater for irrigation brings a special set of problems.

"You continuously have to flush out the soil so that salt doesn't build up," he told the council. "Then, as a result of the flushing, you have to replace important nutrients. It can get complicated and labour intensive."

But the report described several successes. Seeds from a wild tomato found on the seashore

Vietnam's wartime paranoia

BANGKOK, May 25, (UPI) — Vietnam, in a sudden return of wartime fears, accused the CIA of trying to undermine the communist regime with leaflets, armed infiltrators, agents posing as tourists and calls for democracy, official Vietnam radio said.

CIA agents "are trying in every way to cause instability, instigate dissatisfaction, and to stir up trouble" to bring the collapse of communism in Vietnam as in Eastern Europe, the radio said in a broadcast.

In an indication of internal divisions, the radio charged that some "confused and utopian" Communist Party members have assisted the CIA campaign aimed at the "peaceful evolution" of the communist system.

A Western analyst in Bangkok said the broadcast indicated a return of wartime paranoia among some segments of the communist leadership and the security forces. This has triggered the arrests of Catholic priests, intellectuals, foreign travellers and businessmen, including one American, in recent weeks.

The campaign of suspicion appears intended to slow recent moves to open Vietnam's sluggish economy to foreign investment and trade, the analyst said.

The radio report said the CIA is employing tourists, overseas Vietnamese, minority ethnic groups and Vietnamese Catholics to subvert the Communist Party.

UK asks stay of execution

Eight face gallows for drug offences in Malaysia



Han Tsui Ling



Au King Chor



Chan Yiu Tim



Chow Sing



Ng Yun Kwok



Yuan Kwok Kwan

Smoking to be banned on international flights within Australia

CANBERRA, Australia, May 25, (AP) — The government announced today that smoking will be banned on international airline flights within the country effective Sept 1.

Treasurer Paul Keating, who is acting prime minister while Bob Hawke recuperates from

prostate surgery, made the announcement at the Australian Medical Association's annual conference. The government has previously banned smoking in federal government buildings, on domestic airline flights and in federally-registered buses.

Taiwan's premier-designate kept from speaking

TAIPEI, May 25, (Reuters) — Taiwan's opposition politicians today screamed, shoved and filibustered to keep the prime minister-designate from addressing Parliament in protest against what they called military interference in government.

Defence Minister Hau Pei-tsun, who stepped down in December as Taiwan's longest-serving military chief of staff, spent most of the day waiting in an anteroom, unable to address the Parliament that must approve his appointment as premier.

After a full day of antics and speeches, the speaker finally had to adjourn the session until May 29, the day Parliament is scheduled to vote on Hau's appointment.

All 21 opposition members of the assembly draped themselves in waistcoats covered with slogans reading: "When military men interfere in government, democracy collapses" and "firmly oppose military men organising the cabinet."

They used repeated parliamentary man-

oeuvres and violence to keep the session from ever getting to the agenda in the morning and delivered endless speeches to block the afternoon meeting.

"This podium can no longer represent popular will," shouted Wei Yao-Chian, a member of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party. "Therefore I'm removing it," he screamed, yanking the table-top podium and microphones off the rostrum and leaving the hall with the podium under his arm.

KUALA LUMPUR, May 25, (Reuters) — Britain has asked Malaysia to stay the executions of eight Hong Kong people, including a distraught mother, condemned to the gallows for drug offences, a high-commission official said today.

"The high commissioner has asked for a stay of execution," first secretary Ashe Woodham told Reuters.

Windham said the appeal, by letter to Malaysia's foreign ministry, asked for an indefinite stay of execution for the eight, who are due to be hanged on Wednesday.

A lawyer for three of them said the families of the accused would jointly seek a pardon from Malaysia's King, Sultan Azlan Muhiuddin Shah.

If the eight are executed, it would be the largest mass hanging in Malaysia, a predominantly Muslim country of 17 million people.

Lawyer Karpal Singh said Hau Tsui Ling, 32, the only woman among the accused, has wept uncontrollably since she was told of her fate last week and has expressed fears for the future of her daughter, 13.

The former nightclub waitress would be the first foreign woman to be hanged under the tough anti-drug laws of Malaysia, which has executed more than 80 convicted traffickers, including two Australians and a Briton.

"She was weeping and appeared badly shaken," said Singh, who with a British diplomat met Hau for two hours on Thursday.

"She is going to have problems facing the gallows."

"She is concerned who would take care of her daughter," Singh said. Hau's daughter, Hau Sze-Man, and two other relatives have arrived in Malaysia, Singh said.

Singh said Hau, dressed in white prison clothes, looked very tired when they met in a large hall in Kajang prison on the outskirts of the capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Also present at the meeting were an interpreter and another of the convicted, card dealer Chow Sing, 42, whom Singh said appeared to have accepted his fate more calmly.

"Chow is holding up quite all right and was quite philosophical about going to the other world, although he looked a little nervous," the lawyer said.

The eight were arrested in 1982 at the international airport of the northern resort island of Penang and convicted in May, 1985, for possessing 12.7 kg (28 pounds) of heroin.

Hua, along with transport workers Au King Chor, 32, and Chao Yiu Tim, 33, driver Yuen Kwok Kwan, 28, and waiter Li Chi Ping, 28, were found guilty of drug trafficking.

Chow, Ip Tak Ming, 36, a supervisor in a vegetable marketing company, and insurance and travel company director Ng Yiu Kwok, 37, were convicted of abetting the five.

Their families were due to arrive in Malaysia over the next few days and will be allowed a final visit on Tuesday. Hau and Chow will be hanged in Kajang prison and the other six in a prison in the northern town of Taiping.



PHOTO COMPETITION

1ST PRIZE

(LOCAL)
Nikon F801 Camera
+ 50mm Lens
+ Camera Case

1ST PRIZE

(INTERNATIONAL)
£. 500

2ND PRIZE

(LOCAL)
Canon EOS 650 Camera
+ 50mm Lens + Case

2ND PRIZE

(INTERNATIONAL)
£. 300

3RD PRIZE

(LOCAL)
Yashica 230 AF Camera
+ 1.8 Lens

3RD PRIZE

(INTERNATIONAL)
£. 150

OTHER PRIZES:

4. Yashica FX-107 MP Camera
+ 35-70 mm Zoom Lens
with Yashica CS-140 Flash
5. Tamron Lens 28-70 mm (F/3.5 - 4.5),
Tamron Lens 70-210mm (F/4 - 5.6)

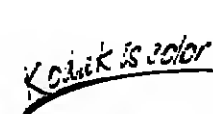
6. Pentax Camera "Zoom 90"
7. Minolta AF Zoom 65QD Camera
8. Ricoh RZ 750 Camera
9. Polaroid Image Camera

For more details get your entry forms free of charge at:

1. All 36 Commercial Bank branches
2. Kuwait International Hotel
3. Ashraf & Co. Ltd.
4. Photo & Cine Equipment Co. Ltd.
5. Rifal & Jashanmal Co. W.L.L.

6. Al Ajeel International Center
7. Boushahri Film and Trading Co. W.L.L.
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9. Al Alamiyah Electronics Co.
10. Abdul Aziz & Pte., Trad. Co. Ltd.

Selected entries will be shown at Kuwait International Hotel from 1-15 November 1990
Last date for entry 31 July 1990



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Eton toasts 550th birthday

Eton toasts 550th birthday

LONDON, May 25, (Reuters) — Eton College, the educational cradle for Britain's ruling elite, faces the unusual prospect of being snobbish.

Some old Etonians are refusing to go to the college's 550th birthday party on the grounds that it's too glitzy.

Britain's biggest and most exclusive fee-paying school is throwing a lavish champagne and fireworks celebration on May 29 to mark the anniversary of its foundation by 15th-century monarch Henry VI.

Marquees will be pitched on the hallowed playing fields which will echo to old boy Humphrey Lyttelton's jazz band.

Eton has pulled off the ultimate social coup: Queen Elizabeth will make an official visit during the day.

Headmaster Eric Anderson says that after a slow response about 5,500 guests are expected to attend. "Possibly those who taught them at school didn't teach them adequately about the need to answer invitations speedily."

Eton had expected up to three quarters of the 12,000 surviving former pupils, known as OE's, but was forced to extend the invitation to parents of boys at the school because of the poor response.

"I thought we were second class citizens," said author Jeffrey Archer, whose son goes to Eton. "But I don't mind being asked."

But some old boys and their families find it all too much, particularly a tankard now on sale which plays the Eton boating song when lifted. "They must be splitting their sides at Harrow (a rival public school)," one indignant OE said.

"Everyone is laughing at the party," the wife of one former pupil told a national newspaper. "It's thought to be deeply non-U."

(vulgar) and absurdly expensive."

Eton, Cambridge University and a spell in one of Britain's elite guards regiments are the impeccable credentials of a truly upper-crust, or top-drawer, Englishman.

The Duke of Wellington said the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton.

This all-male bastion has produced 19 prime ministers and 36 Victoria Crosses, Britain's highest medal for valour.

There are eminent Etonians in the arts, the church and business, all connected to what has come to be known as the old boy network, which can ensure contacts in high places.

Located on the River Thames and close to Windsor Castle, outside London, Eton was founded by Henry VI in 1440 for poor scholars.

Despite old-fashioned values and a deep sense of history Eton is changing with the times.

"I don't much believe in the old boy network," said Anderson who says pupils are now just as likely to be sons of businessmen and lawyers as the offspring of guards officers and peers.

The social cachet of having attended the most prestigious of Britain's 200 private schools remains.

For £8,500 (\$14,300) a year parents can buy the right for their child to attend classes in black tail-coat and white tie and to play the unique wall and field games.

The Guardian newspaper in a report on the school said its facilities were "unbelievable in comparison with the state sector."

The pupil to teacher ratio is twice as good as in state schools. An Eton teacher is paid about 20 per cent more than his equivalent in

the state sector. Discipline is less strict than it was. The last flogging was eight years ago and fagging, a grim system under which junior boys acted as servants for their seniors, has been abolished.

"Boys end up charming, with immaculate manners and rather pleased with themselves," says one school guide.

Etonians' friends put their polish down to confident charm but critics brand it arrogance.

"Friends say of me: 'You're so bloody sure that you are right,'" said old Etonian Tam Dalyell who despite his background sits as a member of Parliament for the opposition Labour Party.

Eton's history is steeped in violence. Its first school rule was: "Members of the college are not allowed to carry swords, knives or arms, nor to keep monkeys, bears and badgers."

Under one headmaster 100 years ago 13 boys died from bullying and one outlier for high spirits was released a ram in the grounds, chasing it then clubbing it to death.

Last century flogging provided a rhythmic counterpoint to classroom life and the fearsome Dr Keate could fairly claim to have flogged every member of the cabinet.

For years well-bred Britons submitted their small sons to the brutal and spartan regime they saw as character-forming.

Riots were frequent, boys ate rotten meat and drank sour beer while rats infested the buildings.

After reform Eton became a ratified environment for cultivation of an aristocracy. It's still all about privilege and confidence as the Eton boating song shows: "We'll Still Swing Together."

And Swear by the Best of Schools."



Discover gold

...and share the pleasure

World News Roundup

America

Taylor in good spirits: Actress Elizabeth Taylor, who came close to death from viral pneumonia last month, has improved significantly and is in good spirits, one of her doctors said Wednesday.

Taylor, 58, is resting comfortably in St John's Hospital and has shown a positive reaction to treatment for a yeast infection in her blood, Dr Michael Roth said in a statement.

Taylor, who previously has had a series of major operations for back problems and underwent treatment to overcome what she called her dependency on alcohol and prescribed drugs, is expected to remain in the hospital for a month. (Reuters)

Gun controls approved: The US Senate voted narrowly on Wednesday to strengthen controls on certain types of semi-automatic assault weapons that drug gangs have used to fight turf wars in US cities.

The controls, approved by 52-48 and intended by Democrats to be part of a controversial crime bill, would ban new sales of nine foreign and domestic semi-automatic weapons.

The controls were prompted by the killing of five children at a California school last year by a deranged man using an AK-47 rifle who then killed himself. (Reuters)

Iowa investigation opens: The US Navy has reopened its investigation of last year's explosion aboard the battleship Iowa that killed 47 sailors and the family of a sailor suspected of causing the tragedy called for an apology.

The decision to re-examine the explosion came after an "unexplained ignition" of a 100-pound (45 kg) powder bag during a test earlier on Thursday at the naval weapons station in Dahlgren, Virginia. The bags were the type used on the Iowa. (Reuters)

Jews seek protection: The umbrella organisation of Jews in the Soviet Union has written President George Bush urging him to protect them from a growing tide of anti-Semitism and to bring their appeal to President Mikhail Gorbachev at next week's summit.

The letter from the Vaad, which is the confederation of Jewish communities in the Soviet Union, accuses Gorbachev of "connivance ... toward this great danger."

"The president (Gorbachev) is adamant in his decision to keep silence on the problem of growing Nazism in his own country," the group wrote in its May 20 letter, a copy of which was obtained Wednesday. (AP)

Blast at Jewish groups: Police Thursday labelled a small explosion at a Manhattan hotel where two Jewish groups were having dinner a bias crime, saying it was similar to one Sunday at a hotel where Vice-President Dan Quayle spoke to a Jewish group.

One of the two small explosive devices at the Hilton went off Wednesday night, interrupting the two separate dinners held by two Jewish organisations but causing no injuries, police said.

The blast forced about 300 people to leave ballrooms on the hotel's third floor, police said. (UPI)

Dinkins unveils budget: New York City mayor David Dinkins on Thursday unveiled a tough 1991 budget to help the nation's financial capital overcome an economic slump that mirrors the downturn in the entire country.

Only schoolchildren and the police force will be spared by cuts in Dinkins' \$28 billion budget that raises taxes and cuts services. Only the homeless, drug addicts and police with Aids will benefit from better services. (Reuters)

Tight curbs on appeals: The Senate, reversing its position, approved tight curbs Thursday on appeals to federal courts by death row convicts, sharply cutting the time before they are executed, and advanced to include more crimes among those punishable with execution.

Floor managers also agreed on a compromise which makes 17 the minimum age at which a person can be executed under the federal law. The Democrats wanted 18 and the Republicans 16. The Senate refused, 59-38, to take out a section which forbids execution of a mentally retarded person. (UPI)

Berendzen convicted: American University President Richard Berendzen Wednesday was convicted of making obscene phone calls — some of them allegedly involving children.

Berendzen pleaded guilty to two misdemeanours in connection with the charges, which were placed on May 11.

A judge in nearby Fairfax, Virginia, sentenced the university president to 30 days in jail for each charge but suspended the jail terms if the educator stayed out of trouble for a year.

In his only comment to the court, Berendzen said, "I deeply regret this." (Kuna)

Vending machines: The US Health Secretary on Thursday asked the 50 states to ban cigarette vending machines as part of a plan to curb sales to minors in a country where smoking is increasingly socially unacceptable.

"You can't buy beer from a vending machine, why should you be able to purchase cigarettes there?" Louis Sullivan said in testimony before the Senate finance committee.

Sullivan said the administration also wanted the states to license stores that sell tobacco, just as licences now are required for the sale of alcoholic beverages. (Reuters)

Girl's tumour removed: A tiny blood vessel tumour the size of a basketball was removed from the leg of a 2-year-old Soviet Armenian girl Thursday by volunteer surgeons using a laser scalpel.

"It's a dream come true," said the girl's mother, Tamar Gregorian, bursting into tears of relief after the tense, 5-hour operation.

"The doctors worked a miracle. No other people, no other place had shown me any kind of hope."



Acupuncture for animals

A sedated Danny the cat gets an acupuncture treatment for the flu from veterinarian Dr Bill Hood May 24 in his Sydney surgery. Hood has been using acupuncture with animals for seven years and claims a seventy per cent success rate. (Reuters wirephoto)

Immigration

New agency recommended

WASHINGTON, May 25, (AP) — A US congressional commission wants a new independent agency to administer most immigration and refugee policies.

Under the proposal, most of the functions now performed by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service and the state department would be consolidated in a new agency. Border security and interdiction efforts would be separate.

A draft report by the commission proposes creation of a new agency for migration affairs to co-ordinate immigration policy and services.

"Immigration policy is far too important to be relegated to a stepchild agency such as the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, which falls uncomfortably within the department of justice and which historically has been beset with serious management and resource problems," said the commission.

"Nor should these functions be diluted among three different bureaus in the state department where they too often are subordinated to short-term department considerations and compete for resources and attention," the report added.



Sinatra 'sauce'

Frank Sinatra displays two bottles of his new sugo da tavola pasta sauce which have been introduced in California markets. "Our family has always favoured simply cooked sauce made with the freshest ingredients. It's a heck having our sauce in the market," said Sinatra. (Reuters wirephoto)

Europe

Appeal denied: Three judges in London refused on Thursday to permit the British Muslim Action Front to appeal to the House of Lords in its effort to prosecute author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy. (AP)

Charged with killing own babies: An East German couple has been charged with murdering five of their babies between 1984 and 1988, the official news agency ADN said on Wednesday.

The prosecution says the couple suffocated the babies in plastic bags as soon as they were born at their home or hid them in blankets and left them to die before burning the bodies. The trial starts next week. (Reuters)

Honeymooners win suit: A Dutch court has ruled in favour of a couple who sued a hotel for allegedly giving their VIP suite reservation to American rock star Prince. (AP)

Heroic performance: Actor Richard Harris said Wednesday that he was so tense before the opening of his first West End stage appearance in 25 years that he was sick.

Harris, 59, won the audience at London's Wyndham Theatre with a heroic performance

in Pirandello's Henry IV. But before the curtain went up, he had a classic case of jitters. (AP)

State funding denied: The British government was accused of discrimination Thursday after a decision by Education Secretary John MacGregor to deny state funding to Britain's only all-Muslim primary school.

Azam Baig, head teacher at the Al-Farooq Primary School in Brent, north London, told the media here the decision was "a clear sign of bias and discrimination." (Kuna)

No 'mad cow' in France: French Agriculture Minister Henri Nallet assured Parliament on Wednesday that no case of "mad cow" disease had been diagnosed in French cattle and there was no cause for panic. (Reuters)

French free skinheads: French police detained eight skinheads in Albi on Wednesday in connection with a Jewish graveyard desecration, but released them after checking their alibis. (Reuters)

Neo-Nazi mags banned: France's interior minister banned the distribution and sale of three neo-Nazi magazines Thursday, calling the West German publications a threat to public order.

Interior Minister Pierre Joxe said the works "threaten the public order because of their apologetics for Nazism, racism and anti-Semitism." (AP)

2,000-year-old hairstyles: Swedish women will soon be offered 2,000-year-old hairstyles if a group of Swedish hairdressers touring Turkey have their way.

The hairdressers are trying to capture what they call the essence of antique forms in hair by studying statues of love goddess Aphrodite, goddess of wisdom Athena and others in Turkish museums and Greek and Roman archaeological sites. (Reuters)

Step up fight against Mafia: Italian President Francesco Cossiga appealed to the nation on Wednesday to step up the fight against the Mafia. (Reuters)

Pope to visit Malta: A joyous welcome awaited Pope John Paul II's arrival Friday on Malta, the devoutly Roman Catholic island republic that has never been host to a Pope despite a Christian tradition dating back nearly 2,000 years. (AP)

Bomb blasts in Athens: Three powerful bombs exploded in the fashionable Kolonaki district early Thursday in Athens but only one person was slightly injured, police said.

A spokesman at police headquarters said that the three bombs went off about the same time in Aristodimou and Soudias streets at 12:44 am (21:44 GMT).

He said that three cars were wrecked by the bombs but that it was not immediately known whether the bombs were under the vehicles or in them. All three cars had Greek license plates, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity. (AP)

Discuss Antarctica: Antarctic experts from 24 nations concluded talks Wednesday in Oslo, Norway on the disputed future of the vast, snowy continent.

Organisers said the 150 government experts, environmentalists and scientists gathered "for a free exchange of new ideas."

They had no intention to resolve the political dispute over whether to open Antarctica to such commercial enterprises as mining. (AP)

Palmer urges France: Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer urged France on Thursday to rethink its nuclear testing programme in the South Pacific, calling it a barrier to better relations.

Palmer, marking International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament, noted that France had conducted more than 100 atmospheric and underground nuclear tests in French Polynesia during the past 25 years. (AP)

UFOs threatening milkman: Villagers near the Russian town of Lipetsk think thirsty visitors from space may be trying to kidnap the local milkman, a newspaper reported on Thursday.

The daily Selkaya Zhizn quoted Vladimir Akhalshev as saying he was trailed by a shining ball one night as he drove his milk tanker to a dairy near Lipetsk, close to the southern city of Voronezh where Soviet media reported the landing of three-eyed extra-terrestrials last autumn. (Reuters)

Wants to launch brothels: A Hungarian businessman wants to launch brothels, massage parlours and a fleet of "sex taxis" in the hope of turning Budapest into the Bangkok of Eastern Europe.

Laszlo Voros, owner of a thriving new sex company called Intersens, announced his plans on Thursday at a packed news conference where journalists were given pornographic magazines and served Hungarian champagne by topless waitresses. (Reuters)

Arsonists suspected: Swedish police said on Friday they suspect arsonists caused a fire that destroyed immigrant housing in Kimsdal following strong local opposition to the settlement.

Migrants to Sweden mainly come from Iran, Lebanon, Somalia and Ethiopia.

Sweden expects up to 40,000 people to seek citizenship in the coming 12 months, double the previous year's number. (Reuters)

Silver auction fetches \$1.9m: Four pieces of early 18th-century silver which lay unclaimed in a London bank vault for 101 years were sold for £1.144 million (\$1.932 million) Wednesday, Christie's said.

An unidentified telephone bidder paid £770,000 (\$1.3 million) for a pair of winecoolers and London dealers Armistage spent £374,000 (\$632,000) on an ewer and basin. (AP)

Skinheads freed: Three alleged skinheads suspected of desecrating a cemetery at St Heriberto, covered their faces moments after being freed from jail May 23. No evidence could be found against them. (Reuters wirephoto)



Monaco Grand Prix

Princess Stephanie of Monaco walks with her fiancé Jean-Yves la Fur through the pit lane May 24 during the first practice day for the Monaco Grand Prix to be held on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)



Indonesian painter dies

The expressionist painter Afandi (shown above) died at his home in Yogyakarta, central Java on Wednesday at the age of 83, relatives said.

Afandi had been admitted to Yogyakarta's Bethesda Hospital on Jan 25, 1989, after having difficulty breathing and repeated vomiting. He had been in a coma for months and died of an intestinal infection, family members said.

Afandi had always claimed he was a "sukarsana" — a short ugly character in the traditional

power. Born 1907 in Cirebon, west Java, about 270 kilometres (169 miles) east of Jakarta, Afandi became a professional painter in 1938 and held his first solo exhibition four years later.

"Afandi" (mother) was a masterpiece of his early realistic works, before he became the country's foremost expressionist painter. "Potret Diri" (self portrait) is another masterpiece among at least 4,000 works he created in more than 50 years. (Reuters wirephoto)

Victims of circumstances: Wives of some of 10 men beheaded in Monrovia this week alleged Thursday the killings were linked to tribalism and a rebellion against President Samuel Doe.

Also Thursday, legislators from Nimba County, the northern rebel base, called on the government to protect their tribesmen. They said they have become "victims of circumstances." (AP)

Buchanan retaken from rebels: Liberia said its army has recaptured the country's second port, Buchanan from rebels trying to topple President Samuel Doe.

The victory of the Liberian soldiers is a clear indication that the army is on its way to wiping out the remnants of the rebels, a government statement said late on Thursday.

There was no independent confirmation of the government claim. (Reuters)

Students massacre in Zaire: Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens on Thursday confirmed that soldiers in Zaire killed 1,000 students in a massacre in the south of the country.

Belgian press reports, denied by Zaire authorities, said earlier this week that between 50 and 150 students opposing Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko were murdered by his personal guard in the night of May 11-12.

Britain donates bridges: Britain has donated two prefabricated bridges to help truck food to famine victims in northern Ethiopia, a United Nations official said on Thursday.

The official said the Bailey bridges, worth \$340,000, would replace damaged bridges in northern Wollo and Tigray provinces and should be installed before the rainy season started next month.

Gorbachev must help end war: President George Bush should urge Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev to press Angola's government into peace talks on ending the country's civil war, a spokesman for the US-armed rebels said Wednesday.

Jardo Muekalla, the US representative of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola, said attempts to get talks under way are at a crucial juncture and the Soviet position could determine their success.

The Soviet attitude has been "amhivalent" — diplomats supporting peace talks but the army providing the Angolan government with weapons, he said. If the Soviets continue to provide weapons, the government will not negotiate in good faith with Unita on ending the 15-year war, he said. (AP)

lack of concern for human rights either among the people or activists," said Ian Martin, secretary-general of Amnesty International. (AP)

Malaysia to re-examine deal: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed said Friday his government is re-examining its plan to purchase 12 Tornado jets from British Aerospace for 400 million pounds (\$676 million).

Mahathir cited the cost and sophistication of the aircraft in making the announcement, which followed published reports earlier this week saying the deal was off.

The Tornado sale was considered the backbone of a 1 billion pound (\$1.6 billion) arms pact signed in 1988 by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher with Kuala Lumpur. (UPI)

Khmer accepts Thai plan: The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge resistance group has agreed to a Thai cease-fire plan to be signed in Tokyo next month, Deputy Prime Minister Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh said Friday.

The Khmer Rouge was the last of the four battling factions in Cambodia to agree to the cease-fire first made public by resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

"Everything that Sihanouk has agreed to, the Khmer Rouge has also agreed to," Chavalit said. (UPI)

Quake shakes Indonesia: A strong earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale jolted eastern Indonesia Friday but no injuries were immediately reported, the meteorology office said.

The earthquake — its intensity capable of causing severe damage — struck at 3:09 am (20:09 GMT Thursday) and was centred north of Flores island, about 1,700 kilometres (1,063 miles) east of Jakarta, said Siswono, meteorological official.

Officials at Maumere, on Flores, about 150 kilometres (95 miles) south of the epicentre, could not be reached by telephone for information. (AP)

Expeditions abandon climbs: An eight-member Italian team and a two-member French team abandoned climbs of two mountains, each over 23,000 feet (7,000 m), because of strong winds and heavy snowfall, Nepal tourism officials said Thursday.

The Italian expedition, led by Stefano Agostoni, 28, abandoned its climb of the 23,494-foot (7,161-m) Pumori on May 18. The Ministry of Tourism said. The team, approaching from the east ridge, had pitched its first camp five days earlier at 23,400 feet (6,200 m).

The French expedition, led by Jean-Marc Boerger, 40, abandoned its climb of the 23,644-foot (7,219-m) Annapurna on May 17, the ministry said. The team, approaching from the south, had pitched its first camp earlier in the day at 18,865 feet (5,750 m). (UPI)

Noriega fee deal gets flak: The US attorney on Thursday defended the government's payment of hefty legal fees to Manuel Noriega's defence lawyers, denying critics' charges that the arrangement was a "legal slush fund."

The defence has asked for payments of \$250 to \$350 an hour for each of five attorneys, far in excess of the usual federal cap of \$60 to \$75. The total defence bill, including expenses, could reach \$5 million.

"The government does not agree with or promote any rate for the lawyers," Miami US attorney Dexter Lehtinen said Thursday. "The government has not agreed to any rate in the Noriega case." (AP)

Ortega's wall to fall: The new mayor of Managua has given former Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega until Friday to knock down walls surrounding his house and disrupting the flow of traffic on the Sandinista leader's street, city officials said on Wednesday.

"The Berlin Wall was knocked down, so why can't Ortega's wall fall," Mayor Arnoldo Aleman told reporters.

Ortega was given notice on Tuesday that he had until Friday to knock down the walls — built several years ago for security — surrounding his extensive home or the city would do the job for him and send him the bill, city officials said. (Reuters)

Foreign aid bill sent to Bush: After months of delay, a \$720 million in emergency US aid to the new democratic governments in Panama and Nicaragua is ready to flow southward.

Congress was spurred to approve the bill early Friday because it also contained millions of dollars in hometown spending.

When finally sent to President George Bush, the measure had swelled to a total of more than \$4 billion. It included programmes that ranged from filling in a collapsed utility tunnel on a small town street to giving the Samoan Islands a \$750,000 ferry boat. (AP)

Balaguer wins but review begins: First-round election results released Thursday gave President Joaquín Balaguer a thin margin of victory over ex-president Juan Bosch in last week's national elections.

The outcome is not official until election officials review tally sheets to check for fraud and voting irregularities, a process that is expected to take several days. (AP)

Contras won't demobilise: The Nicaraguan guerrillas will not disarm and demobilise by the June 10 deadline unless security guarantees are sharply improved, a top member of the rebel high command said Thursday.

The demobilisation is paralysed, said Oscar Sovallbarro, the top guerrilla negotiator, just before a meeting with representatives of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's government. (AP)

Cocaine shipments soars: Cocaine shipments from South America to Europe and Japan are soaring despite a crackdown on drug traffickers by authorities in Colombia, the region's biggest producer, a US official said on Thursday.

"Probably 200 tonnes are going to Europe now," the official, a narcotics expert who requested anonymity told reporters. US officials said annual shipments to the United States were more than double those to Europe, averaging 400 to 500 tonnes. (Reuters)

Torture 'went too far': The former security chief for a Mexican drug cartel member testified Thursday the bodyguard for one of the ring's leaders told him his boss "went too far" by killing a US drug agent.

The remarks by the bodyguard, whose boss operated in Guadalajara, Mexico, were allegedly made a few days after a January 1985 meeting at which the kidnapping of a US Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena was plotted. (UPI)

Labour unveils moderate policy, Tories fight back

LONDON, May 25. (AP) The opposition Labour Party, holding a commanding lead in polls over Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, unveiled a new, moderate platform yesterday marking the climax of a major policy shift.

The 20,000-word document incorporated most of Thatcher's stringent curbs on labour unions, which fund the Socialist Party, envisaged private investment in state enterprises and a maximum income tax rate of 50 per cent.

Under the last Labour Party government in 1979, the top income tax rate was 83 per cent.

On defence, where Labour already has ditched its vote-winning policy of scrapping British nuclear weapons unilaterally, the party promised large, but unspecified, defence-spending cuts, with money saved being

diverted to social programmes. "Some of the people who have been socialists have been profoundly wrong," said Labour leader Neil Kinnock of the party's shift. "We are convinced democratic socialists," he added, speaking at a news conference.

Labour, which until the mid-80s wanted to withdraw Britain from the 12-nation European Economic Community, now takes a pro-Europe stance.

The policy statement, "looking to the future," said a labour government will negotiate British entry into the exchange rate mechanism of the European monetary system, which links most EEC currencies.

Thatcher has stalled on membership but is taking a softer line, and many analysts expect Britain will join the currency-stabilising system by the end of the year.

Britain ready to cap carbon dioxide emissions, says Thatcher

LONDON, May 25. (Reuters) Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today Britain was prepared to set a target of holding down carbon dioxide emissions to their current level in the year 2005, a 20 per cent cut in projected rates.

Speaking at the opening of a climate research centre outside London, Thatcher said a giant international effort was needed to deal with the greenhouse effect or the world would become hotter than at any time in the past 100,000 years.

The Conservative Party dismissed the policy document as a public relations exercise and said the reality of a Labour government would be high taxes and unions once more out of control.

"Provided others are ready to take their full share, Britain is prepared to set itself the very demanding target of a reduction of up to 30 per cent in presently projected levels of carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2005," she said.

The British leader said action to curb carbon dioxide emissions "will mean significant adjustments to our economies — more efficient power stations, cars which use less fuel, better insulated houses and better management of energy in general."

She added that concrete government proposals would be set out in long-awaited environmental legislation to be published later this year.

Thatcher's remarks coincided with the publication of a report by an inter-governmental panel on climate change in which leading scientists said the increase in greenhouse gases as a result of human activities were warming the earth's surface with potentially serious consequences for all.

"Carbon dioxide has been responsible

for over half the enhanced greenhouse effect in the past, and is likely to remain so in the future," the report said.

It predicted that global mean temperature would rise by one degree centigrade by 2025 and three degrees by the end of the next century.

Thatcher, who has spoken out forcefully on environmental issues since late 1987, said there was a great risk to future generations if nothing was done about global warming.

minister if Labour wins, now regularly outstrips 64-year-old Thatcher in personal popularity ratings.

The next election does not have to be held until mid-1992, but there is speculation that Thatcher may call one in March next year if her policy of using high interest rates to try to squeeze inflation is working by then.

Britain traditionally has short, four-week general election campaigns.

Bush expects few accords

WASHINGTON, May 25. (AP) President George Bush conceded yesterday that his summit next week with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would produce few signed agreements but promised to seek progress on arms reduction and other disputes.

"I don't want to have two ships pass in the night," Bush said. "We've got a lot to talk about."

Bush said the lack of formal agreements should not be viewed as a sign the summit will be a failure.

"I don't want to overpromise, but I don't want to act like I think it's some kind of dance," Bush told a White House press conference. "What we're going to talk about is really substantive."

Specifically, he listed the tension in Lithuania and other secessionist Baltic states, German unification, chemical and nuclear weapons and conventional troop levels in Europe as items of the agenda.

Bush said he could not offer preferential trade treatment to the Soviets yet because the Soviet legislature has not passed suitable emigration laws guaranteeing Soviet Jews and other ethnic groups that they can leave the country. In addition, he said many members of the US Congress would oppose trade concessions as long as the Kremlin remains in a standoff with Lithuania.

"I think there is a political climate in this country that would make it extremely difficult to grant the trade benefits to the Soviets at this time," Bush said.

The President said he had no problems with the agreement on reductions in long-range nuclear weapons that Secretary of State James A. Baker III negotiated with Moscow. Bush and Gorbachev are to sign an accord on the broad details of that deal, but the specifics still are being negotiated.

"There is no light between us on that at all," Bush said when asked if he thought Baker gave away too much. "It is a sound position."

Baker on Wednesday defended the arms control declaration against critics, mostly conservative newspaper columnists, who have accused him of giving too much ground in his negotiations last week in Moscow.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, looking ahead to next week's Washington summit, thinks the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union should meet every year to keep relations on a steady course.

Speaking at a reception to mark the annual meeting of the US-Soviet trade council, Gorbachev also said neither superpower should take advantage of the other's domestic difficulties.

Tass reported yesterday.

French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Moscow today for an afternoon of talks with Soviet leader Gorbachev just before this month's superpower summit.

Regular East-West meetings

BONN, May 25. (Reuters) West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said today military chiefs should meet regularly in the new spirit of East-West co-operation.

He also proposed that heads of government from the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) should meet every two years.

There was uncertainty about the timing of the next CSCE summit, expected to give an international seal of approval to German unification.



Mark Ascension Day

A Romanian woman wipes tears away as she lights a candle May 24 on Ascension Day in University Square, the scene of many battles during the December revolution. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hunger strikers vow to continue

Bucharest square protest

BUCHAREST, May 25. (Reuters) Demonstrators opposed to Romania's newly-elected President Ion Iliescu said today they would maintain a month-long hunger strike and occupation in central Bucharest despite a call by some organisers to give up.

The protesters, demanding that former communists like Iliescu be barred from holding office, have occupied the capital's University Square since April 22. A hunger strike began in the square one week later.

Leaders of three groups which helped organise the protest have called in a statement for the hunger strikers to give up their last rather than die.

They said the occupation should be replaced by a demonstration every Thursday and on the 21st of each month, in memory of the bloody uprising in

Bucharest against dictator Nicolae Ceausescu which began on December 21.

Their appeal was issued late yesterday, four days after Iliescu and his ruling National Salvation Front secured a landslide victory in presidential and parliamentary elections.

The appeal was welcomed by Romania's Front-led government but rejected by hunger strikers and protesters on the square.

"No one is pulling out. Only the leaders signed the statement but most of the organisations intend to continue," hunger striker Victor Dumitrescu said.

A doctor treating hunger strikers said the number swelled at one stage to around 70 but a total of only 14 now remained. Four people gave up because of weakness on Thursday and Friday.

Yeltsin chance bright as rival withdraws

Latvia rejects order: Lithuania cuts hot water

MOSCOW, May 25. (Agencies) The candidate backed by Mikhail Gorbachev for president of the Russian republic withdrew from the race today, strengthening the campaign of Boris Yeltsin, the populist who has repeatedly clashed with Gorbachev.

The state news agency Tass reported the withdrawal of Russian Premier Aleksandr Vlasov but did not give a reason. It said Vlasov's pullout had been announced at the Congress of the Russian Federation, which will elect the president, a new post in the largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

In addition to Yeltsin, two other men remained in the race -- Ivan

Polozkov and Vladimir Morokin — but from the start the campaign had appeared to be a contest between Yeltsin and Vlasov.

Prior to Vlasov's announcement, Yeltsin delivered a well-received speech pledging that if elected, he would defend the republic from meddling by the central government in Moscow, but refrain from personal bickering with Gorbachev.

"I am for businesslike relations, dialogue and negotiations with the president and the government, but on the principle that Russia's sovereignty is not damaged," Yeltsin told the Russian congress.

His bass voice booming through the hall of the Great Kremlin Palace, Yeltsin pressed a radical platform for bringing the Russian republic "out of crisis."

He presented a point-by-point programme on how he would fight for Russia's sovereignty, unleash market forces, increase housing and flood stores with consumer goods.

He blasted the government programme for a transition to a market economy presented yesterday by Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov, saying it had "already created panic in the stores today."

Instead, he backed an alternative programme involving sale of government property, more liberal laws on ownership and foreign loans to make the transition without "everything falling on the shoulders of the people."

Ryzhkov said today he would resign if the Parliament rejects the government's plan to move toward a modified market economy.

Ryzhkov told reporters during a break in the parliament's debate on the economic reforms he did not fear a no confidence vote proposed by radical deputies yesterday.

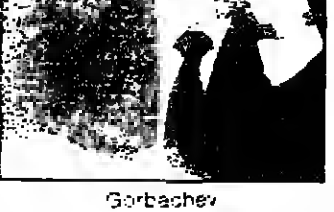
Gorbachev's blueprint for dismantling a centrally planned economy is too timid and too fragmented to succeed, several Western analysts said yesterday.

"You can't have halfway reform," said Lyubov Sire, director of the independent centre of research into communist economies in London.

But Gorbachev's government also is in a political bind because it lacks the support of the Soviet people to push for even more radical therapy for a sick economy, the analysts said.

Latvian legislative leaders today rejected Gorbachev's order voiding their declaration of independence, a spokesman said.

The presidium, or executive council, of Latvia's Supreme Council sent a telegram to Gorbachev saying he exceeded his authority when he issued a May 14 decree that Latvia's declaration was illegal said legislative spokesman Ivars Embrechts.



Gorbachev

USSR sliding towards chaos

LONDON, May 25. (Reuters) The Soviet Union is a dissolving empire, sliding towards chaos and a future no one can predict, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said yesterday.

"The situation in the country today is inherently unstable," the London-based institute said in its annual strategic survey.

"Neither politically nor economically can the Soviet Union remain as it is. It must either take several steps forward in its drive for reform, or several steps backward."

The survey was written before the Kremlin announced a public referendum on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's radical plans to move towards a regulated market economy.

"Gorbachev seems willing to risk further change, recognising that any step backward... would lead straight to disaster," the report said.

But it added: "What remains far less clear... is whether he has any genuine answers to the ever growing, ever more dramatic problems in the USSR, whether those answers are relevant, and whether they will be formulated and put into practice in time."

The survey predicted the introduction of even partial market mechanisms will result in more, not less, hardship, for some time to come.

"Whether the Soviet people will be willing to accept this, particularly if the distribution of wealth should become even more visibly uneven in the process, is highly uncertain, to say the least."

In a chapter titled "Dissolving Empire," the survey said events in the Soviet Union have spun so far out of control there could be no certainty of what the country will look like when, and if, it finally stabilises.

The Soviet Union is building new warships at the highest rate in 20 years to replace old vessels that are being retired, according to Jane's Fighting Ships.

The latest edition of the respected defence directory, to be released, reports that the Soviet Union will be retiring 17 nuclear submarines, 80 diesel powered submarines, three cruisers and 25 frigates as part of a programme to rid the navy of technology from the 1940s and 1950s.

Warsaw, May 25. (Reuters) Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said today a strike by railway workers, blocking all Poland's ports, was fuelled by political intrigues and could flare into civil war.

Walesa accused activists of the former ruling Communist Party of using genuine workers' grievances for their own political ends.

The strike is the most dangerous challenge yet to the government formed by Solidarity nine months ago and the first protest against the tough economic policies it launched on January 1 to curb inflation and introduce a free-market economy.

"Those who have left the country in ruins are today exploiting a legitimate workers' protest for their vile game and this may lead to civil war," Walesa told reporters at Solidarity's headquarters in the Baltic port of Gdansk.

Walesa called off a planned visit to Scandinavia and a government spokesman said he would not rule out the possibility that Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki might postpone a visit to Paris due to start on Monday.

Hunger strikers in the coastal city Slupsk, whose two-week action sparked the rail protest, said they were suspending their fast and awaiting arrival of a government delegation for talks.

The Solidarity-led government, helped to power by its strikes against communist governments, refuses to send negotiators to Slupsk or make pay concessions, which it says would undermine its economic programme.

As the strike spread today all Polish ports were blocked, almost one third of the country was without rail transport and most coal exports had halted, railway spokesman Jacek Wnukowski said.

A Foreign Trade Ministry spokesman said he had no information that exports had stopped.

Walesa said the organisation has not changed its view that banks, mining companies and other major private industries must be nationalised. (AP)

Mandela is involved in negotiations with the white-led South African government on dismantling the country's apartheid policies of racial segregation.

Mandela said the organisation has not changed its view that banks, mining companies and other major private industries must be nationalised. (AP)

De Klerk left for Italy yesterday after a six-hour visit aimed at convincing Spanish authorities he is earnest about ending the apartheid system of racial segregation.

The visit prompted Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to voice public support for De Klerk's reforms. But, as expected, Spanish officials did not lift any of the sanctions imposed to pressure further change in South Africa.

De Klerk met with Gonzalez, Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez and King Juan Carlos during the visit, the first to Spain by a South African head of state.

It was the second-to-last stop on a nine-nation, 18-day European tour aimed at breaking his country's diplomatic and economic isolation. (AP)

The African National Congress (ANC) said yesterday it would continue its military campaign to overthrow white rule in South Africa, unless Pretoria stopped violence against blacks by security forces.

"We have a moral duty to defend our people and deprive the government of the monopoly of violence," Chris Hani, chief of staff of the movement's military wing Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), said in the Zambian capital.

A series of explosions ripped through South African government buildings and policemen's homes, injuring two people and causing extensive damage, police said yesterday.

Winnie aide guilty of murder

JOHANNESBURG, May 25. (Reuters) A Johannesburg court today found Winnie Mandela's chief bodyguard Jerry Richardson guilty of murdering a 14-year-old boy, after a trial which has put the reputation of Nelson Mandela's wife in the dock.

The Rand Supreme Court convicted Richardson, 41, of killing black activist Stompie Seipei, whose body was found rotting in a ditch in Soweto in January last year with a slit throat.

Richardson was also found guilty of attempted murder, four kidnapping charges and five counts of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Seipei's death was one of several scandals linked to the self-styled "Mandela united football club" which acted as Winnie Mandela's bodyguard during the last years of her husband's 27-year imprisonment.

During the three-week trial, state witnesses testified that Winnie Mandela had been party to Richardson's abduction of Seipei and three other youths to her home in the black township of Soweto in December 1988.

They also said she had punched, slapped and beat some of them with a heavy whip, and allowed other people to assault them there.

The witnesses said the youths were taken from a Methodist-run church shelter and beaten to make them admit that the white minister who ran the establishment had assaulted them sexually, a charge denied by the church.

Tens of thousands of whites are expected to attend a giant rally tomorrow to launch a "freedom struggle" to fight for apartheid and white-minority rule in South Africa, organisers said Friday.

The pro-apartheid Conservative Party (CP) predicted up to 100,000 whites will attend the rally in Pretoria to denounce President F.W. de Klerk's plans to end white-minority rule and share power with the black majority.

The CP, the official parliamentary opposition party, is using the rally to launch a campaign to try to force an election to oust De Klerk. The CP wants to retain white-minority rule, contending whites and blacks are incapable of living together because of cultural differences. (AP)

Nelson Mandela said Wednesday the African National Congress stands by its policy of nationalising private industries but is willing to accept "different forms" of government participation.

"We stress the fact that businessmen represent an important sector in the economy," the ANC deputy president told reporters after addressing a conference of leading South African businessmen.

Mandela is involved in negotiations with the white-led South African government on dismantling the country's apartheid policies of racial segregation.

Mandela said the organisation has not changed its view that banks, mining companies and other major private industries must be nationalised. (AP)

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A series of explosions ripped through South African government buildings and policemen's homes, injuring two people and causing extensive damage, police said yesterday.

KUWAIT ... GULF

MEW to name firm for Iraq water project

All bidding companies foreign

KUWAIT, May 25 (Kuna): Kuwait will choose by the end of this month the company that would implement and oversee a multi-million-dollar project to supply the country with fresh water from Iraqi rivers.

Electricity and Water Minister Hmaid Abdulla Rqobah was quoted by a local daily as saying that his ministry had com-

pleted the process of receiving designs and supervision bids for the project from various firms.

Different offers would be examined by the end of this month to name the company that tendered the lowest cost and best designs, Rqobah said.

Under an agreement concluded last year between Kuwait and Iraq, 200 million imperial gallons of water would be pumped to Kuwait from Iraq's Shai Al Arab waterway per day in the first phase of the project.

Rqobah told the paper that all bidding firms were non-Kuwaiti companies, but he

said the winning contractors would be asked to appoint a national agent to guarantee best implementation of the contract.

He asserted that "matters are going on according to endorsed plans to make of the proposed, vital project a successful one."

Food validity dates being tampered with

150 tons spoilt food last month

FROM time to time there are whispers of fraud either in co-operative societies or in the commercial centres, which is mostly represented by the sale of rotten consumers goods or the selling of commodities whose validity has expired.

This mode of fraud is mostly realised by removing the original label which indicates validity and substituting it with a forged label to extend this period. Any how, the victim is always the consumer.

To highlight this issue, a local daily interviewed a number of people.

Khaled Al Aali, a representative of a foodstuff company, said that some merchants do a running business playing with validity dates.

He, added, to surmount this phenomenon, the authorities concerned should request the manufacturing companies to print validity dates in a specific manner that cannot easily be tampered with and should request them to use labels which are not easy to remove and forge.

Al added that strict control in this connection, is a must, not only on the validity date but even on the quality of goods.

He added that citizens should play a significant role in the control process by reporting to the authorities concerned any fraud

immediately.

He condemned promotion tactics which are sometimes followed by some merchants to promote their goods, particularly when they resort to selling two pieces of certain goods for example at the price of one. He pointed out that this manner was aimed mostly at selling off their stock of invalid goods.

Wedad Mustafa, said that consumers should pay more attention to the validity date of all goods but especially foodstuff. He pointed out that some poison cases have taken place due to the consumption of rotten foodstuff.

Maha Rabeia has called for the imposition of strict control on the validity of consumer goods. She recalled that once she purchased some canned food and found that it was inedible.

Meanwhile, the deputy director-general at the food department of Kuwait Municipality Khalid Al Rushoud said that each merchant was requested to re-test his stock of foodstuff and merchants should report to the municipality of any suspicion in order to enable the department inspectors to take the necessary action to help test all the goods.

He added that during periodical inspection, municipality inspectors did not rely on validity dates on each can, but

make the necessary tests by picking cans randomly.

Rushoud added that all imported foodstuff is subject to the necessary tests by the municipality, and in case the tested materials is not edible the relevant supplier undertakes either to get it destroyed to send it back to the exporter.

He clarified that during the last month the department has tested about 1,530 specimens of foodstuff pointing out that the pertinent analysis has proved that about 19 samples were invalid. He added that the total quantity of invalid food during the month had amounted to about 150 tons.

Rushoud said that his department was practicing its role in all shops throughout the country and was making a periodical inspection in this respect.

He added that local foodstuff factories, were subject to a periodical inspection also to ensure that these factories abided by the relevant specifications.

Apart from the above, the department is conducting inspections on co-operative societies and violators were subject to legal penalties.

He added that his department has created a followup team to arrange for surprise inspection on co-operative societies.

Action Line

I CAME to Kuwait as a domestic helper. I want your help to look for another job — in a hospital or ministry.

My employer told me that if I extend my service for two more years they would look for another job for me.

I have too much work here and as I've been with them for one and a half years, I want to find another job. My employers don't allow me to go out because according to them, there are many bad people out there. One day, my employer bought the English Arab Times newspaper, but there was no mention of any vacancy.

I read your Action Line column to help people. Therefore, I'm sending you my application and 250 fils for postage.

A.A.

WE REGRET to inform you that we can't help people looking for jobs. Through this column, we can try to help you better understand the rules of this country. We also try to give you some information about services like postal, telephone, hospital and others.

There are no recruitment agencies in Kuwait, through which you would be able to apply for jobs.

Surely, you must have some friends who can help you with your problem. Talk to them and tell them what your requirements are; they may be able to assist you.

Like any country, there are some good and some bad people here. If you can take care of yourself, you'll be able to avoid the "bad" people. Don't you get a day off each week? What do you do on your day off?

You are seeking a midwife's job. The health ministry does not recruit midwives; a person holding a diploma in midwifery must also hold a nursing certificate to qualify for a job in the health ministry.

As you did not give your address, we cannot return your 250 fils. Please contact us on 4813566 ext. 285/287 so that we can return it to you.

UNTIL a few years ago, the US embassy in Kuwait issued five-year multiple entry visit visas to Indian nationals. Now the maximum period given to Indians visiting the US is one year multiple entry visa. I understand that other nationals like Palestinians and Pakistanis are still given five years multiple entry.

Can you please advise through your column whether there is any specific reason for not granting Indians five-year multiple entry visas as before?

MM

A US Embassy official in Kuwait told us that this is "strictly a matter of reciprocity." Over a year ago, the practice was changed due to altered reciprocal rules between India and the US.

Sometimes, the duration of multiple entry visas is extended, for example, in the case of executives on all-expenses paid business trips.

I AM a commerce graduate presently employed as a driver in a company since 1984. I want to change my job to sales representative, clerk or store keeper. I want to know if I will be able to renew the driving licence or will it be withdrawn after changing my profession?

M.S. Haque

A CHANGE of job will not affect the driving licence, which can be renewed on expiry. Once issued, driving licence are revoked only in cases where the motorist has broken the traffic laws or has disregarded the rules.

MY WIFE and five-year-old son left Kuwait in April this year. Their residence permits are valid until 1992. They carry separate passports. My son has been enrolled in one of the schools in Manila and will start studies next month.

My wife and son cannot come back within six months. How can I get an exemption for my wife, who is my son's guardian? What documents do I need to furnish with the authorities?

Your column is of great help to us. Please keep it up.

Anselmo S. Campos

IF THE passport and visa are valid, you can apply for "overstay" permission for the son. You must submit attested copies of school certificates from Manila stating that the child has been enrolled and studying. On submission of these documents, the immigration authorities will give him permission to re-enter on a valid iqama.

You can try submitting similar documents for your wife; however such permission is normally not granted in other cases, except business. It is advisable to check with the immigration authorities if they would grant overstay permission for your wife on the basis of her being your son's guardian.

In case, this is not possible, you can always call her on a month's visit visa.

If you have a problem drop a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat Kuwait or fax your questions to us on Tel: 4847495.

Rise in allergies

KUWAIT is witnessing a sharp increase in allergy cases, according to Dr. Khodhair Abbas Al Kathemi, a consultant for allergies.

He said that the fastest development witnessed by Kuwait in many fields and such a short time is one of the main reasons behind this vast increase in allergy patients. In addition, he pointed out that sudden weather fluctuations and high psychological stress is also counted as allergy causing factors in which they appear to have a strong impact on causing skin allergy and asthma.

Contact MEW before you dig: warning

YOU may be the reason for a KD30,000 loss on the government by accidentally digging your front yard to plant a palm tree.

Director of maintenance at the electrical transformation networks department at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Abdullah Mohammed Al Kbamees has requested all contractors and citizens to avoid conducting any excavation works, before consulting concerned authorities. He pointed out that excavations conducted by either citizens or contractors have caused repeated defaults in underground services that include high voltage cables and

water connections.

He called upon contractors to show more co-ordination with the Ministry of Electricity and Water so they can avoid inflicting such damage in the electrical and water networks.

Kbamees stressed that co-ordination with the Ministry of Public Works before conducting any excavations and tile removal is an absolute necessity.

The Ministry of Electricity and Water is currently co-ordinating with the Ministry of Public Works and the municipality in order to restore underground services before they mount floor tiles.



Polish envoy

Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed received here the Polish non-resident Ambassador to Kuwait, Witold Jurass, on the occasion of ending his mission here.

Kuwaiti aid to Lebanon

Plan approved for material distribution

AL MASNA, May 25 (Kuna): A Kuwaiti official announced here that a fourth consignment of Kuwaiti aid will be soon dispatched to Lebanon.

Representative of His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Saud Al Sabah told reporters at this Lebanese-Syrian border post that there will be no stop to Kuwaiti relief aid to Lebanon.

Accompanying the third convoy of foodstuffs, house utensils, medicine and medical equipment, Sheikh Mubarak said that his country's assistance to Lebanon posed as an invitation to other Arab countries to follow suit.

He noted that Kuwaiti contribution in Lebanese projects is pending stability of the security situation in the country which, he expressed optimism, would be reached by end of the current year.

Sheikh Mubarak said that the focus in the next stage will be on the Lebanese child which will follow the end of the current operation.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Syria Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al-Jassem, who accompanied Sheikh Mubarak, told reporters that Kuwait is ready to assist Lebanon in whatever it needs to restore its unity.

He underlined that a plan had been approved for distribution of the relief materials which he said would cover all Lebanese areas.

The ambassador, however, said that Kuwait would not offer any military assistance since Kuwait targets "peace and only peace for Lebanon."

Condemning the recent Israeli massacre of Palestinian workers, Jassem disclosed that his country was employing its international relations in a bid to free Arab detainees in Israeli prisons.

Lebanese Daily 'Al-Liwa' praised the Kuwaiti assistance to Lebanon and recalled previous occasions in which that country had proven its support to Lebanon on all levels.



Kuwaiti relief material in Lebanon.

Rayes praises Irish stance

LONDON, May 25 (Kuna): Kuwait's Ambassador in London Ghazi Al Rayes praised the Irish stance toward the Palestinian cause, describing it as distinguished and positive.

The Kuwaiti ambassador told Kuwait News Agency here yesterday that the Irish people are fully aware of the Palestinian cause and follow closely its developments because of the presence of an Irish unit within the United Nations interim forces in Lebanon (Unifil).

He said members of the Irish unit, when they go back home explain to their relatives what is going on in the occupied Palestinian land and oppressions witnessed by the Palestinians.

Rayes expressed satisfaction over the Irish rule toward the Middle East and constant support Dublin extends to the Palestinian cause, particularly in light of Ireland's current championship of the ministerial council of the European Economic Community.

In his statement to Kuna the Kuwaiti Ambassador, as Deputy dean of the Arab diplomatic corps in London, said that he visited Dublin on May 16-17 heading a delegation of Arab ambassadors to London.

The accompanying delegation includes ambassadors of Yemen, Jordan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Palestine and Charge d'Affaires of Saudi Arabia, Somalia and non-resident ambassador of Algeria to Dublin.

The Egyptian ambassador to Dublin joined the delegation.

The delegation met with head of the Irish development authority, a specialised investment body that sends experts to various countries.

The diplomats also met with speaker of the Irish parliament Sean Trane, during which talks centered on the Palestinian question and the situation in the Middle East.

The Kuwaiti ambassador praised the positive stance of the Irish parliament speaker toward the Palestinian cause.

Rayes noted in his statement that the Irish defence minister is the one who issued the Bahrain Declaration that calls for giving the Palestinians their legitimate rights and establish their independent state.

That declaration came before the "Venice Declaration" that was issued by the European Economic Community in 1980.

Second university idea supported

A PROFESSOR at Kuwait University's Faculty of Science, Dr Fayzah Al Khorafi was quoted as saying that she supports the setting up of a second university, provided the university seriously endeavours to upgrade the academic level of students and focuses on quality rather than quantity, coupled with encouraging the innovative spirit among students.

Speaking of the level of education at the Faculty of Science, Dr Khorafi, ex-dean of the faculty described the performance as

good. She added that the faculty is striving to incorporate sea science in the faculty's curriculum, in addition to desert science in view of its close proximity to the relation with the Kuwaiti environment. The ex-official said that graduates of the Faculty of Science are in need intensified training courses.

Speaking of the obstacles that she faced her tenure as a dean, Khorafi said that red tape contributed in no small measure in hindering scholastic development.

Shamlan to open juristic symposium

KUWAIT, May 25 (Kuna): Higher Education Minister Ali Abdallah Al Shamlan will inaugurate Monday the 2nd juristic symposium, jointly sponsored by the Kuwait Finance House and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science.

The four-day symposium will feature a selected group of researchers and scholars from Kuwait and abroad.

The conferees will discuss 19 research works on Islam's view toward a number of modern financial and banking issues, insurance, re-insurance, rent contracts and many others.

The inaugural speech will be delivered by Shamlan followed by Kuwait Finance House's board Chairman Ahmed Beza' Al Yassin and then a speech on behalf of the symposium's preparatory committee.

The first day of the event will include two sessions, the first of which will tackle a research by Sheikh Mohammed Al Mukhtar Al Salami on the bank interest sanctioned by the Islamic Sharia, its guidelines and applications in authorised banking transactions.

The second session, to be headed by head of Najat Charitable Society Ahmed Saad Al Jasser, will discuss two research works conducted by Director General of the Islamic Bank of Bahrain Abdul Latif Al Janabi and Dr Fatbi Lashin on a proposed formula for an Islamic insurance and re-insurance company.

The first symposium was also hosted by Kuwait three years ago.

KPTC makes KD 6m profit

KUWAIT Public Transport Company (KPTC) has made a net profit of KD 6 million during 1989 according to the financial and administrative report of the company which had been submitted recently to the company's general assembly by the chairman Abdul Wahab Al Haroun.

The report clarified that this profit has been realised in view of the studied policy adopted by the company which had covered several aspects including the austerity policy adopted by the company.

The report said that the company's activities focused on four lines including public transport sector, private transport, marine transport and maintenance sector. The public transport sector constitutes the flagship and the company is striving to enhance its performance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cables

KUWAIT, May 25 (Kuna): His Highness the Amir sent a cable of congratulations to King Hussein Bin Talal of Jordan on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

His Highness also sent a similar message to the President of Argentina on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Amir's Cup

KUWAIT, May 25 (Kuna): On behalf of HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah attends the final game of HH the Amir's Cup between Al Arabi Sports Club and Kazma Sports Club tomorrow at 7.15 pm at Al Qadisiya Stadium.

Premier's cables

KUWAIT, May 25 (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to King Hussein Bin Talal of Jordan on the occasion of Jordan's National Day.

His Highness sent a similar cable to Jordanian Prime Minister Muhiyar Badran.

Sabah returns

KUWAIT, May 25 (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah returned home yesterday from Baghdad after attending the Arab Foreign Ministers meeting.

In an arrival statement, Sheikh Sabah commended the atmosphere of the foreign ministers' meeting and said it copes with the serious threats and challenges facing the Arab nation.

He added the participants discussed, during the past two days, issues to be tabled at the summit's agenda, scheduled to convene in the Iraqi capital on May 28.

Sheikh Sabah expressed his pleasure at attending the Arab foreign ministers meeting and appealed to the Almighty to enable the Arab leaders to achieve their aspirations for the benefit of the Arab world.

Sheikh Sabah was received by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Ossaimi, foreign undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Sabheen as well as other officials at the Foreign Ministry.

Ossaimi leaves for Geneva

KUWAIT, May 25 (Kuna): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Ossaimi yesterday left here for Geneva to take part in today's emergency Security Council session for discussion of the Israeli brutal massacres against the Palestinian people in occupied territories.

Ossaimi is due to address the meeting where he will urge the international community to reject such cruel practices.

On Tuesday the Security Council decided to transfer its session to Geneva from New York to enable Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to address the council.

The Security Council session was called for by the Arab group in the United Nations last Monday to discuss the "massacre of Black Sunday" in occupied territories where an Israeli armed man opened fire on a group of Palestinian workers killing seven and injuring 16 others.

Bahraini minister

MANAMA, May 25 (Kuna): Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa yesterday said that the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Baghdad has discussed the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit meeting, to be held next Monday.

Mubarak arrived here early morning after heading his country's delegation to the Arab foreign ministers meeting in the Iraqi capital.

The Bahraini minister said upon arrival that the preliminary meeting discussed the Arab situation in general in the light of the challenges facing the Arabs, particularly the threats against Iraq.

He added that all the foreign ministers have expressed their countries' solidarity with Iraq.

Traffic delegation

KUWAIT, May 25 (Kuna): Director of the General Traffic Department Brig. Abdul Hamid Al Hajji is to head the Interior Ministry's delegation visiting Japan in the period May 27 to June 2.

The seven-member delegation is to tour various police facilities in Japan at the invitation of the national police in line with the two countries' co-operation in fields of security and safety.

Education week

KUWAIT, May 25 (Kuna): Kuwait University's Education College organises next Saturday its third educational week under the theme of accomplishments and ambitions.

Dean of the college addressed a press conference on the occasion noting that the week falls in line with the college's tenth anniversary.

Recalling the college's accomplishments in the past decade, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Ahmad noted that several workshops will be organised during the week tackling educational problems.

Sideline meeting

BAGHDAD, May 25 (Kuna): Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council states held a meeting here Wednesday at the sideline of their participation to the Arab ministerial sessions in the Iraqi capital.

Sources said the meeting touched a number of issues dealing with resolutions regarding the Arab ministerial agenda.

Arab envoys condemn massacre of Palestinians

Deep concern

MOSCOW, May 25, (Kun): Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belonogov met with ambassadors of Kuwait, Iraq and the representative of the Arab League to Moscow on Wednesday.

The Arab diplomats handed over to him a condemnation statement of the Israeli massacre in the occupied Arab territories, adopted at the Arab ambassadors conference.

Kuwait's ambassador and dean of Arab diplomatic corps to Moscow Abdul Mohsin Al Duaij stressed that the Arab ambassadors requested that the Israeli massacre be put on the agenda of the upcoming Soviet-US Summit.

The Arab ambassadors urged the Soviet Union to send an international force to protect the Palestinian people in the

occupied Arab territories.

Duaij added that the Soviet media neglects deliberately covering the Palestinian intifada and the repressive actions by the Israeli occupation authority against the Palestinian people, pointing out that the Arab interest in Soviet public opinion is not less than the interest in Soviet official opinion.

Duaij quoted Belonogov as affirming

that the Soviet Union told its representative to the UN to attend the security council meeting, scheduled to be held in Geneva.

Belonogov said that his country is following with deep concern the development on the occupied territories and strongly condemned the unlawful action by the Israelis against the Palestinians.

Kuwait-Malaysia set to sign joint venture accord

11-member team now in Penang

KUALA LUMPUR, May 25, (Agencies): At least two joint venture agreements will be signed by Kuwait and Malaysia following a visit here by a delegation of businessmen from the Opec member country.

According to team leader Masood Ahmed, the first joint project would involve the manufacture of automobile spare parts, oil and oil filters while the second venture could be in real estate, agriculture or the manufacture of electrical goods or wood products.

He said he expected this first trade mission by a Kuwaiti business team to Malaysia to be a "successful one."

Malaysia, he said, imported crude oil, petroleum products, urea and fertilizers from Kuwait in return for foodstuffs, vegetables, coconut products, confectionery, wood products and timber, furniture, palm oil, footwear, textiles and garments, stationery, fire extinguishers, glass products and household appliances.

Trade

Malaysian trade with Kuwait, he disclosed, had risen from \$6.7 million in value in 1983 to \$16.7 million last year. However, bilateral trade was still in Kuwait's favour.

Yesterday, the delegation held talks with Malaysian Minister of Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz as well as other high-ranking officials.

The mission, which arrived here on May 19 on a nine-day fact-finding mission organised by the Malaysian Trade Commission in Kuwait, left for Penang, north of the here Thursday evening.

B.N.W.M. Malhotra, managing director of Ogab and Falah Al Malek Trading Co., told Kuna in an interview here earlier he planned to import 1,200 tonnes of palm oil products every month directly from Malaysia in the near future.

The company, which he said is owned by a Kuwaiti royal, presently imports about 400 tonnes of palm oil products every month through Singapore.

For the past 20 years, it has been dealing with Lam Soon Huat Ltd and Ever Brothers Ltd.

Malhotra said Ogab and Falah hoped to save between five per cent and 10 per cent in price difference by buying direct from Malaysia.

"We will not stop importing palm oil products via Singapore but our subsidiary, Al Zahem and Malhotra, will be in charge of the direct import business which is steadily expanding with better organised Malaysian agents," he added.

Apart from being a leading wholesaler in palm oil products in Kuwait, Ogab and Falah also deals in electrical goods and foodstuffs, motor vehicle parts and accessories and the catering business.

The company also owns a five-star hotel called the "Sofitel Surya" in New Delhi.

"Our company plans to set up a five-star hotel in the Asia Pacific region in the next 10 years and Malaysia is one of the potential locations that we have in mind in view of the growing tourism industry in this country," he added.

Anwar Al Fahaheel Trading Co., which commands about 80 per cent of the sewing machine market in Kuwait, foresees good demand for Malaysian-made hand sewing machines.

"We have talked to several Malaysian companies but still need to select the suitable company to be our business partner," said its managing director, Mohammad Anwar Sanaulah.

"I have identified a Penang-based company which produces good quality hand sewing machines. However, the company has yet to contact me for further discussions," he said.

Another member of the team Ahmed Ali Al Jallad said his company, Al Najjar and Al Jallad T. Co which deals in bicycles and toys, had placed an order of more than 100 units of bicycles per month from Raleigh Industries Ltd here.

The company also re-exports bicycles to other markets such as Hong Kong, Japan, Italy and Spain.

"We also plan to set up a factory to produce bicycles in Malaysia for export to Kuwait," he said.

He added the project would either be on a joint-venture basis

with Malaysians or on its own.

Under the Malaysian government policy, a foreign concern can set up its wholly-owned factory in the country provided it has a paid-up capital of at least \$2.5 million and employ at least 95 local workers.

Results

Mission leader Masood Ahmed, who is the marketing officer of the Malaysian embassy in Kuwait, told Kuna the mission had been very successful so far and had achieved certain desired results.

"We have no definite figures (on deals concluded) as the mission is more of a fact-finding one and furthermore, in Penang, Malaysia's leading industrial island state, we will meet more Malaysian businessmen," he added.

Masood said members of the delegation had expressed their full satisfaction with the outcome of their discussions with senior Malaysian government officials and the private sector.

He said the first trade mission ever from Kuwait to Malaysia organised by the Malaysian embassy there was the result of positive response from Kuwaiti business circles to invest in this country.

He added more such delegations would be arranged by the embassy from time to time in an effort to attract an increasing number of Gulf traders and investors to establish direct business dealings with Malaysian counterparts.

Other members of the mission are the managing director of Shama International Trading Ltd, Ashfaq Ahmed and chairman of Kuwait Carpentry Workshop, Hussain A. Al Qahtani.

Commission

Meanwhile, the Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, arrived in Tehran Wednesday morning to attend the second session of the Iran-Malaysia joint economic commission which is aimed at improving mutual economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

A direct air link between the two capitals has already been established and Iran will open a permanent trade centre in Kuala Lumpur in June.

Candid traffic cameras

TELEVISION cameras and radar facilities have begun to be introduced at traffic signals by Kuwait's General Traffic Department, a local daily reported.

Two such facilities are being installed at the junction of Fahaheel main street and Fourth Ring Road and near the flyover situated at the junction of Al Jahra Highway with the Sixth Ring Road.

According to reliable sources, the traffic department had informed the Swedish supplier of these equipments that these are presently being installed as a trial venture to see their performance under Kuwaiti climate conditions, and if successful, will be introduced all over the country.

Technical sources said that the equipment is very sophisticated and is programmed to record the licence plate numbers of violating cars travelling in six lanes at speeds of 250 kilometers per hour.

Suspended jail term for US lecturer

AN American who publicly insulted a lady was sentenced by the Court of Misdemeanours to 3 months imprisonment and asked to pay a fine of KD100 to suspend the jail term. The American lecturer was visiting Kuwait and was invited to deliver a lecture by the Kuwait Journalists Association. After delivering his lecture, he had a discussion with a lady member of the association. During the side discussion with her, the lady claimed that he verbally insulted her describing her thoughts as "rotten" and told her that she represents insolence. The lady told the court that two eyewitnesses heard the lecturer insulting her.

The court before starting its proceedings clarified from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs if the lecturer had diplomatic immunity or not. The foreign ministry informed the court that he did not enjoy any immunity and came at the invitation of his country's embassy.



Prize distribution ceremony

Under the auspices of the Minister of Education Anwar Al Noun a prize distribution ceremony was organised recently for winners of the computer competition organised by the ministry.

The ceremony was attended by the under-secretary of the Education Ministry Abdurahman Al Khodari and a number of senior officials.

The director of the computer department at the ministry Dr Haimoud Al Sadoun made a speech at the ceremony in which he confirmed the ministry's insistence to upgrade computer facilities and usage

in serving educational issues.

He added computer studies was incorporated into about 40 schools of the annual system and about 16 schools of credit hours system with about 18,936 students.

The computer competition was organised by his department in co-operation with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS). Pictures show, (above) the minister inspecting students activities and (below) part of the attendance.



Protect Arab industry: Hamad

DOHA, May 25, (Open): Qatari Minister of Economy and Trade Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Al Thani has said that it is most important that Third World countries acquire technology and take measures to protect it.

However, that was one of the main problems facing developing nations, the minister said at a meeting organised by the Academy for the Protection of Industrial Properties in the Arab World.

He said the question of the protection of industrial properties was important because of rapid progress being made in scientific and technological fields.

He said Qatar appreciated the efforts made by the academy in helping Arab countries draw up legislation aimed at protecting their industrial properties. He listed the various steps taken by the government since 1971 to register trade marks, data and other assets in order to put an end to forgery and imitation.

Al Thani called on Arab countries to establish national societies which should address themselves to the crucial question of the protection of industrial properties.

Aids centre

KUWAIT'S Cabinet in its recent session held on May 13 under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah has approved the setting up of a specialised centre for fighting Aids, a local daily quoted an official source at the Ministry of Public Health as stating.

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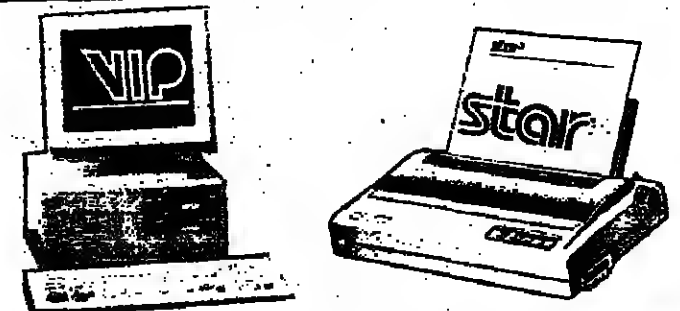
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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A ZOO is a place devised for animals to study the habits of human beings — Oliver Herford, English writer-illustrator (1863-1935).

Violence against blacks Cops ruining De Klerk's reforms

JOHANNESBURG, (Reuters): Police violence against blacks is straining South Africa's peace process and creating widespread doubts about reformist President F.W. de Klerk's ability to control his white-led security forces.

Some critics question the government's willingness to clamp down on police actions regarded sympathetically by powerful white right-wingers.

Black leader Nelson Mandela, whose African National Congress (ANC) is holding preliminary peace talks with white rulers, said on Monday the government had either connived in or directly ordered police shootings in which seven black demonstrators were killed in the gold mining town of Welkom last weekend.

Disaster

Business Day newspaper said in an editorial on Tuesday that the police "have once again landed South Africa with a political disaster."

Fulminating against "ill-trained and trigger-happy" officers, it said: "Why this happens with such regularity requires the urgent attention of Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and his senior police officers."

The independent Human Rights Commission says police brutality and repression have increased as De Klerk's reforms, aimed at giving some political power to the voteless black majority, have gathered pace.

It says that from Feb 2, when De Klerk legalised much black opposition activity and announced Mandela's freedom, up to three weeks ago 139 blacks had been killed and 1,429 wounded by police in politically-related incidents.

"The legal space that was allowed by the president... for political activity stands in question," the commission said in a statement.

The right to express one's views peacefully also stands in question.

There is a contradiction between what the government is saying to the international community and what the police are doing on the ground.



De Klerk doubts

Killed

Police killed at least 17 black demonstrators in the Johannesburg township of Sebokeng in March and black leader F.W. de Klerk postponed initial talks with the government.

Police said they fired in self-defence on a hostile mob. Independent witnesses have testified that the crowd, protesting against living conditions under apartheid, was peaceful. A Johannesburg journalist told an official inquiry he heard policemen laughing after they opened fire.

Since then, more than 15 youthful demonstrators have been shot dead by police and scores wounded in various clashes.

In the eastern province of Natal, where hundreds have died in communal warfare February, independent monitors accuse police either of siding with the conservative tribal Inkatha movement against the ANC or of standing idly by while the blacks slaughter each other.

Human rights campaigner Audrey Coleman of the Detainees Aid Committee said four blacks, one only 16, had died in police custody since the beginning of the year.

"To say the police are out of control would be kind. They are still accountable to the president. It stops at his door. Our organisation lays the blame on De Klerk," she said.

Supremacy

Coleman said the police force was riddled with right-wingers mustering support to preserve white supremacy.

Policemen are forbidden to join political parties, but white far rightists say most officers are in their camp.

One Western diplomat likened De Klerk to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, saying he had to tread carefully in case his reforms alienated top police officers.

He said the police were seen as wanting to undermine reform and suggested the president might have decided he was not yet strong enough to fight them.

Other analysts said South Africa's 80,000 police officers were underpaid, under-qualified, poorly trained and over-stressed when banding demonstrations by thousands of hostile blacks.

Many whites joined the force because they could not find work elsewhere and were thus the very people most threatened economically by a thriving post-apartheid black community.

Business Day urged Law and Order Minister Vlok to get urgent help from well-trained European police "before his men manage to put the new South Africa beyond anyone's reach."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1521 — Martin Luther is banned by Edict of Worms for his religious beliefs.

1805 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte is crowned king of Italy. 1834 — Sikhs capture Peshwar from British in India.

1854 — France and Britain occupy Piraeus after declaring blockade of Greece for attempting to attack Turkey.

1865 — Surrender of last Confederate (Southern) army at Shreveport, Louisiana, ends US civil war.

1887 — British East Africa Company is chartered.

1924 — US President Calvin Coolidge signs bill limiting immigration into United States and completely excluding Japanese.

1926 — Riff war ends with Abd-el-Krim's surrender to France.

1933 — Australia claims one-third of Antarctic continent.

1942 — German forces begin their drives for Stalingrad and the Caucasus in World War II.

1954 — Funeral ship of Pharaoh Cheops is discovered in Egypt. 1964 — China rejects appeal by Britain to help halt fighting in Indochina kingdom of Laos.

1966 — British Guiana becomes independent Latin American nation of Guyana.

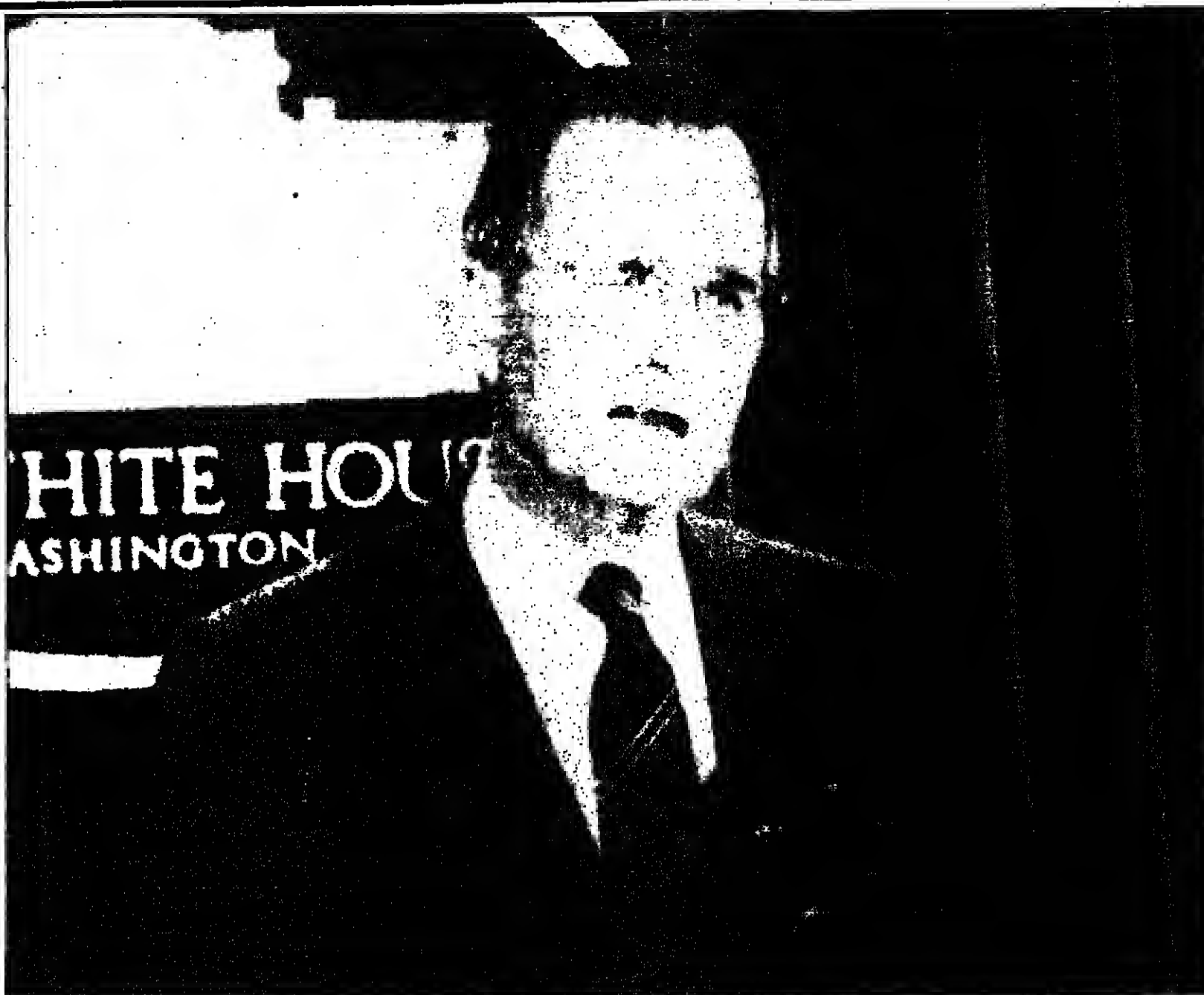
1979 — Israel formally returns sovereignty of Sinai capital of El Arish, which it occupied for a dozen years, to Egypt under terms of their new peace treaty.

1984 — Authorities say Hindu-Muslim fighting in Bombay, India, area has been brought under control through extensive deployment of army troops.

1987 — Sri Lankan troops begin major operation against Tamil rebels on Jaffna peninsula.

1988 — South African president P.W. Botha's National Party celebrates 40 years in power.

1989 — Jewish settlers raid Palestinian village in occupied West Bank, shooting at least three residents.



Bush... casual diplomacy under test against Gorbachev

Gorby may prove impervious

Test awaits Bush at summit

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The hospitable charm of George Bush, who has made relaxed personal diplomacy a hallmark of his presidency, faces a stern test at next week's summit with Mikhail Gorbachev.

US-Soviet frictions sparked by the Baltic independence movement, disputes over German unification and haggling over arms control have changed the May 30-June 3 summit from the clubby get-together Bush once foresaw.

The 41st US president ranks friendship among the highest virtues and likes nothing better than to invite other leaders to his Maine seaside home to talk, in his words, "without having to go to the experts or go to the notebooks."

Impervious

But Gorbachev, beset by domestic political challenges, may prove impervious to the personal touch.

This will not stop Bush trying. On the third day of the summit, June 2, he will take Gorbachev to Camp David, the presidential retreat in the Maryland Mountains, for "informal and relaxed talks."

But the Soviet president and Communist Party chief has refused to stay there overnight or to accompany Bush to Maine.

Bush, 65, is a blend of an aristocratic East Coast upbringing and the informality of his adopted Texas home. He has cultivated an almost folksy manner as president.

Convinced the genial approach will work for him in diplomacy as it did in business and politics, he took Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to a baseball game and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to an air and space museum.

He has also capitalised on contacts made to his eight years as Ronald Reagan's vice president, as ambassador to the United Nations and China, as

director of the Central Intelligence Agency and in other top jobs, bypassing the bureaucracy and phoning foreign leaders directly to iron out problems.

Style

But he has learned that the personal touch does not always work with Gorbachev. When he phoned the Soviet leader once, he failed to persuade him to ease his tough stance on Lithuania's independence bid.

Bush's style has worked better on the American public, which has made him the most popular US president in the history of opinion polls with approval ratings of up to 80 per cent.

Once plagued by an image as a "wimp" without convictions, he has countered with moves that, while sometimes controversial, at least made plain he is his own man.

He toppled Panama's strongman, Manuel Antonio Noriega, with a December 1989 invasion denounced throughout Latin America. He has also defied public opinion by maintaining ties with China despite Beijing's crackdown on demonstrators last year.

Friends say Bush felt liberated by his sweeping 1988 election victory over Democrat Michael Dukakis after projecting himself as a forceful leader during the campaign.

He gets strong help from wife Barbara, whose feisty, unpretentious style and wit has won her a following of her own.

Bush, who calls himself a practical man uninterested in crusades, has avoided grand initiatives and performed instead as a competent manager who tackles problems as they arise.

He has hinted at some capacity for compromise

even on fundamental issues of conservative ideology, most recently in agreeing to discuss all proposals for reducing vast US deficits despite an election vow not to raise taxes.

Boldness

In world affairs, Bush has been accused of lacking boldness and vision. When communist regimes collapsed in Eastern Europe last year, critics said he was too slow to commit the United States to the cause of the fledgling democracies.

Bush began his presidency urging prudence. He ordered a review of US-Soviet ties and a so-called arms control. But by the end of his first year in the White House, the Berlin Wall was tumbling.

Bush met Gorbachev in Malta for a summit last December and called it "the threshold of a brand new era" in US-Soviet relations. Since then he has lavished the reformist Gorbachev with praise.

George Herbert Walker Bush was born June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts, the son of financier Prescott Bush — later to be a senator from Connecticut — and Dorothy Bush.

He had a patrician upbringing, was educated at exclusive private schools and at Yale University. But he left school at 18 at the outset of World War II and became the US Navy's youngest aviator, flying off carriers in the Pacific. He was decorated for valour and was shot down at sea.

After the war, he moved to Texas — where he formed a close alliance with Houston lawyer James Baker, now US secretary of state — and made his fortune in the oil-drilling business.

He became a congressman from Texas in 1966 and later held an array of high government jobs.

Bush married boyhood sweetheart Barbara Pierce in 1945. They have five children and 12 grandchildren.

Moscow treaty stance concerns US

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): US officials are concerned by what they view as Moscow's stonewalling on a treaty to curb non-nuclear forces in post-communist Europe.

Such a treaty is now largely seen by Washington as a way to lock in the gains already accruing to the West from the demise of the Soviet bloc.

Nato said on Wednesday the risk of a surprise attack on the West would be virtually eliminated if a Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty is signed.

Defence ministers of the Western alliance, in a statement at the end of a two-day meeting in Brussels, urged the Soviet Union to work for a CFE treaty this year.

The ministers said that, because of changes in Eastern Europe, they had scrapped long-standing defence spending targets, ordered a major review of strategy, lowered the alert status of some forces and cut the number of military exercises.

Progress

The United States and Soviet Union announced major progress last weekend towards a treaty to cut long-range nuclear weapons.

But after four days of preliminary talks in Moscow, two accords were in sight on the much tougher superpower negotiations involving conventional

arms control and related issues of German unification.

The United States offered new concessions during the Moscow talks, but the Soviet Union gave no ground on terms for withdrawing its huge Red Army presence in its former East European satellites, US officials said.

"We had come with ideas designed to push this process, but our counterparts weren't able to respond meaningfully at this time," US Secretary of State James Baker told a Moscow news conference last Saturday.

East-West talks on conventional arms have been stalled in Vienna for months since the Warsaw Pact became an alliance in name only and since the pace towards German unity raced ahead.

US officials said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev now seemed to be reconsidering how fast and to what extent he wants to reduce the Soviet military presence in the former satellite states along its Western border. For decades, Soviet leaders have seen that presence as critical defence against Nato.

Troop

"They may not see where a CFE treaty is in their interests now, so they're trying to slow down the process," said an arms control expert.

The CFE treaty will cut US and Soviet troop levels in Central Europe to 195,000 on each side and scrap thousands of tanks, artillery pieces and armoured vehicles.

On one level, the issues stalling the CFE talks are disputes over how many aircraft will be allowed; limits on the number of forces to be deployed by individual Western countries as opposed to Nato as a whole; and defining what a tank is.

US experts said the Soviet reluctance also may reflect concern over what to do with the 500,000-plus Soviet troops still in Eastern Europe, including the 300,000 to 350,000 in East Germany. Bringing them home means imposing new burdens on an already badly weakened economy.

The Soviet Union is also battling the idea of a United Germany as a full member of Nato.

"I think they're waiting to see what happens with Germany in the two-plus-four talks," said a State Department official. The talks include the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain plus the two Germans.

The US administration is eager for budget reasons to end the deadlock over the tanks, armies and non-nuclear air power that both sides deploy in Europe.

Letters to the editor

NRI meeting

SIR: This refers to a news item in What's On column. Events page, Arab Times, May 22.

We would like to draw the attention of the NRI Forum to the timing of the proposed NRI meeting, which had been scheduled for 11 am on Friday. Normally a large number of Indian

Muslims go for Friday prayers and are not able to attend such meetings.

We are interested in participating in the forthcoming NRI meeting in New Delhi, but due to the inconsideration shown by the NRI Forum organisers, it may now not be possible.

We request the forum to take into consideration the needs of the various Indian communities residing in Kuwait if they are really interest-

ed in the welfare of the non-resident Indians. Abdulla Dalvi, Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Military plan

Nato to make major changes

BRUSSELS, (Reuters): Nato has started a major review of military strategy now decades of East-West confrontation are at an end — but how far and fast will the alliance go?

Despite public eagerness to cash in the "peace dividend," the signs are that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) will take a cautious line.

Nato defence ministers ended a two-day meeting in Brussels on Wednesday with a pledge to look again at strategies formed in the 1960s, when the now-disintegrating Warsaw Pact was seen as a major threat to the West and its values.

"We aim at a full review, not excluding any concept," Gen. Vigleik Eide, chairman of Nato's Military Committee, told a news conference.

Review

The review is not likely to be finished before the end of the year and a London summit of alliance leaders in July is expected to agree on more guidelines.

It is already clear Nato has little intention of throwing away many basic tenets of its military strategy, contained in a single document with the uninspiring name of MC-14/3.

"Initially, there will be small modifications in doctrine," said Hans Binnendijk of London's International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"They would not want to make any radical changes at this point, because things in the Soviet Union are unclear and because they don't yet have a treaty to cut conventional forces."

A treaty on cutting Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), currently being negotiated in Vienna, is the key that might unlock the door to major changes.

Under Western proposals, it would cut US and Soviet troops in Central Europe to 195,000 on each side and lead to scrapping thousands of tanks, artillery pieces and armoured vehicles, thus ending massive Soviet armed superiority.

Talks

Nato appealed for a constructive Soviet position in Vienna. "There is a kind of footdragging," Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, however, said the Soviet Union thought the talks should be speeded up.

"We agreed that 1990 offers a great chance for a basic change in Europe," he said after talks in Geneva with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. "The offers history makes should not go unused."

Nato officials say many key elements of strategy will be retained because of the threat of instability in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Woerner, citing the alliance's continued mission of "war prevention," said earlier these included a continued mix of nuclear and Conventional Forces in Europe and the presence of US and Canadian forces.

It would also include collective defence — the doctrine that an attack on any of Nato's 16 members is an attack on all.

Doctrines

The detailed military doctrines are based on three pillars known as forward defence, flexible response and first use.

The first entails defending Nato territory at its borders, which would cause a problem if a reunified Germany joins the alliance, because Nato has pledged not to station any troops in what is now East Germany.

Alliance officials and diplomats say the principle is likely to remain valid, with airborne units ready to be moved forward in time of crisis.

There are also few signs of change in flexible responses, which involves using a mix of nuclear and conventional forces in a way a potential enemy could not predict.

Some European members would like to drop first use — using nuclear weapons first if defeat stares the alliance in the face.

"There's no way first use will go," said one Nato diplomat, who asked not to be identified. "Britain, the United States and quite a few others want it kept in, and that means it will be."

The defence ministers agreed at the meeting to scrap long-standing defence spending targets — rarely achieved in practice — and reduce the number of military exercises and the alert status of some forces.

"In a sense, they were only accepting current realities in doing this," said another Nato diplomat. "Those things in themselves are not exactly far-reaching."

QUOTE ME

"It's not my idea to put words in his mouth. That's his decision. He has to think for himself. He has been a willing participant with the press all throughout his career." — Bulls coach Michael Jordan not talking to anyone since losing Tuesday to the Detroit Pistons in NBA playoff semifinal.

"The American people and the American congress have been played for fools by the Salvadoran military and extremists on the left and right. This must end and it must end now." — An American congressman.

"After the first CFE treaty is finalised, we could discuss German troop levels as part of a global view in CFE II, but not separately at this time." — A Nato official.

"Anyone who slows down this treaty, will be responsible for blocking the path to German unity." — West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel.

"There is no doubt that the Israeli government led by Shamir... leads to such catastrophe. The atmosphere created by such a government is responsible." — Pro-PLO leader Faisal Husseini on violence in the occupied territories.

"We don't want to live by our sword, but we shall not be quick in throwing it out as long as it allows us to live in security." — Yitzhak Shamir.

"I did not want to hurt the Chinese people. I concluded that it is in our best interests and the interest of the Chinese people to continue China's trade status. Not to do so would hurt the United States." — US President George Bush.

Jordan celebrates calm independence

Palestinians join noisy but peaceful march

AMMAN, May 25. (AP): After three days of riots Palestinians joined Jordanians in noisy but peaceful demonstrations yesterday to mark Jordan's Independence Day.

King Hussein said he was proud of the reaction of the overwhelming majority of Palestinians and Jordanians, "who came together to control events and contributed to the restoration of calm and stability throughout the country."

Life returned to normal in the Palestinian camps throughout Jordan. People crowded the narrow hazaar lanes to buy food following the

closure of all shops for three days as a sign of mourning for the weekend massacre of seven Palestinian labourers in Israel.

Hundreds of riot police who had battled rioters during the previous three days in clashes that left four people dead and 29 wounded returned to their barracks from the outskirts of the camps in the capital itself and elsewhere in the country.

"We deeply regret the few incidents which occurred here in Jordan," Hussein said, in his first public reaction.



Stone throwers' victim

Ahmed Simantov, a five-month-old Jewish baby from the West Bank settlement of Ofra with her head bandaged in hospital May 24 after she was injured in the head by stone-throwers while riding with her parents in a car through the village of Ein Yabrud. (Reuters wirephoto)

3 killed in Beirut Shiite fighting

BEIRUT, May 25. (Agencies): Rival Shiite Muslim militias fought pitched battles in Beirut's southern suburbs today, killing three people and wounding 25, security sources said.

They said fighting with machine-guns, rockets and mortars flared between the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and Syrian-backed Amal groups in Sheykh district shortly after Syrian troops quelled a five-hour clash in the Jenah area.

At least three people were killed and 25 wounded, the security sources said, and witnesses reported that heavily-armed militiamen roamed the suburbs as civilians crowded in safety.

The witnesses said gunmen were also seen in areas outside the southern suburbs, triggering fears the inter-Shiite battles could spread to other parts of Muslim West Beirut.

Fighting in Jenah, close to the Iranian embassy, stopped after representatives of the two sides met Syrian officers.

A Syrian soldier was among the wounded, witnesses said. Amal sources said the fighting erupted in Jenah after Hezbollah gunmen tried to assassinate an Amal official driving through the slums. They said Haidar Haider and one of his bodyguards were wounded.

A Hezbollah spokesman denied involvement in the assassination attempt and blamed Amal for starting the shooting.

Across the Green Line, a fragile truce between rival Christian forces was holding for the 10th day although snipers were still active.

Today's Shiite bloodletting erupted after Hezbollah accused Amal militiamen of kidnapping four of its members in Shiite districts of West Beirut.

Police said two Amal fighters were wounded by Hezbollah gunmen near the city's sports stadium around 9.30 am (0630 GMT).

By police count, at least 1,046 people have been killed and 3,117 wounded in a 2 1/2-year-old power struggle between the rival militias for supremacy of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiites, the country's largest sect.

Amal and Hezbollah gunmen took to the streets and clashed around the sports stadium on the southern edge of Beirut.

The Syrian army, which has some 40,000 troops in Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate, have charge of security in Muslim sectors of Beirut.

Comprehensive Mideast peace

Assad tells Americans

DAMASCUS, May 25. (Agencies): President Hafez Al Assad told a group of visiting Americans yesterday that Syria wanted a just peace in the Middle East in which Israel would return "Arab" lands seized in the 1967 war.

Officials quoted Assad as telling the 50-member delegation, led by former senators Charles Percy and George McGovern and including clergymen, businessmen and academics, that Damascus would discuss any initiative to achieve such a peace seriously.

The Americans arrived in Syria on Wednesday at the start of a "mission for a just solution in the Middle East" which will also take them to Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the occupied territories.

"Unilateral and partial solutions will not lead to peace. There cannot be peace if it is not comprehensive and this has been proven in recent years," Assad has quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, two Egyptian envoys today left Damascus for Cairo after a 24-hour mission intended to convince Assad to attend an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad next Monday.

The envoys, Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Esmat Abdul Meguid and Egyptian president's political advisor Osama Al Baz would not answer reporters' question on whether the Syrian leader would attend the summit.

Dr Abdul-Meguid only said that President Assad entrusted him with a reply message to President Hosni Mubarak.

The two envoys, who arrived yesterday, conveyed a message from president Mubarak to the Syrian leader which according to Dr Abdul-Meguid, aimed to bridge the rift between Damascus and Baghdad and to urge Syria to take part in the summit.

But official sources in Baghdad said Syria had already told Egypt in secret contacts Damascus saw no reason to change its view that the summit was just a "propaganda" play by Iraq.

The delegates at the foreign minister's meeting which ended yesterday said even if Assad came to the summit, he would have to accept most of the draft resolutions as they stood.

"It's less and less likely that Assad will come. A few days ago it still looked possible," one ministerial delegate said.

But two senior Syrian ministers were sharply critical of a US State Department memorandum to the Arab leaders urging them to support initial Middle East peace talks outside the framework of an international conference involving all parties.

Minister of Information Mohammad Salmaan told a Kuwait newspaper that an international conference was the only viable option.

"If more time is wasted, no Palestinian side would be able to think about conducting direct negotiations or even start a dialogue," Salmaan said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharras said if a bilateral deal between Israel and the Palestinians came out of any such talks it would be rejected by everyone concerned.

Tunis to hang strangler

Killer kept village in terror

TUNIS, May 25. (Reuters): A sex killer dubbed "the Nabul strangler" has been sentenced to hang for murdering 12 young people in a two-year reign of terror in Tunisia.

Tunis criminal court last night convicted Nacer Damergi, an oddjob man aged about 50, of strangling or stabbing his victims after luring them into the countryside and molesting them.

Damergi dumped most of his victims, boys and girls aged between seven and 20, into wells.

The death sentence, pronounced by three judges, followed

lively press debate over whether Damergi should hang. President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali remarked that no one had been sentenced to death since he took office in November 1987.

Between his first killing in 1987 and his capture last December, Damergi kept the town of Nabul in a state of terror.

Prosecutors said he offered his victims rides on his motorbike to a secluded spot before assaulting them. In the summer of 1989 he began to kill more frequently.

Hezbollah garments factory in Beirut busy

BEIRUT, May 25. (Reuters): It is funded by Iran and run by Muslims, but the garment factory in Beirut is busy making Western-style mid-calf skirts and tight trousers.

Slogans of "death to America" and pictures of the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini adorn its walls and women workers are asked to conform to Islamic dress, ensuring that their hair, arms and legs are covered.

It is in this factory, run by Hezbollah in Beirut's southern suburbs, that much of city's Western-style and Islamic clothes are made and sold.

Products are also exported to Arab and European countries. Sweeping black silk chadors and long cotton dresses in muted colours hang alongside short skirts with double-breasted gold-buttoned white jackets.

"There is a great demand for modern-styled clothes. We ran out of them and had to bring down our old stock of plain dresses to make our shop look full," said Zahra Shaib, dressed in black from head to toe.

"We supply the local market and also export via traders to Gulf states, Saudi Arabia, France, West

Infighting in Nidal faction

ALGIERS, May 25. (Reuters): Prime Minister Moncef Hamrouche said yesterday a kidnapping attempt had taken place in Algeria involving a factional fight within a Palestinian group.

He gave few details, but a dissident from the Fatah Revolutionary Council of Palestinian radical Abu Nidal said last month one of his colleagues had been attacked in Algiers on April 25.

"Palestinians have always had internal problems. Until now Algeria has been spared. Now unfortunately there was a case, a kidnapping attempt that was controlled and eliminated by our (security) services," Hamrouche told state radio.

The dissident, Ataf Abu Bakr, broke with Abu Nidal last October and accused him of killing scores of members of the organisation in Libya.

Abu Bakr said the colleague, Abdrhman Issa, was the target of an assassination attempt by three men, one of whom Issa recognised as working at Abu Nidal's Algiers office.

Diplomatic sources in Algiers said Issa had been wounded and at least one of his attackers had been arrested.



Masked youths

Masked youths holding rocks and waving a Palestinian flag at a barricaded street in the Shuafat refugee camp as they taunt Israeli border police over one hundred metres away. (Reuters wirephoto)

Brazil signs N-treaty

Warned against selling to Iraq

BRASILIA, Brazil, May 25. (AP): A top US atomic energy official on Wednesday pressured Brazil to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and sternly warned against selling Iraq atomic weapons.

"Businesses are known by the clients they have, and a client such as Iraq demands special care," Richard T. Kennedy, US representative in the International Atomic Energy Agency, said at an afternoon press briefing.

Kennedy, who met with heads of Brazil's nuclear programme on Tuesday and Wednesday, said the United States "applauds and encourages" the government's pledge to use nuclear

energy for peaceful purposes. "But we must insist, for the good of this country, on the signing of the treaty," said Kennedy, who did not comment on the Brazilian government's response to his demand.

Foreign Minister Francisco Rezak recently told reporters he considered the 1967 world nuclear treaty "discriminatory". He said Brazil would sign the treaty only if the original text were revised to allow the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries.

"The use of nuclear energy in Brazil, though peaceful, is fundamentally our own issue," Rezak told the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper.

Kennedy pointed out that Brazil had signed the Tlatelolco treaty of 1967 on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in Latin America. He also said a clause in Brazil's constitution prohibited the manufacture of atomic weapons.

"We greatly respect those treaties, but they are not enough," said Kennedy. "The world community is waiting for a confirmation in another context, which could be the signing of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty."

In 1987, the government enriched uranium, an important step toward building an atomic bomb, at its Aramar nuclear centre.

US-Israel relations sour

Strong mutual dislike of leaders

WASHINGTON, May 25. (Reuters): US-Israeli relations have slid into a period of bitterness fuelled by strong personal dislike between the leaders of the two nations.

Officials and analysts said sourness between the Jewish state and its major ally was likely to persist and even worsen until Israel produced a government willing to commit itself to a peace dialogue with Palestinians.

"There is no doubt we are in a phase of tension and stumbling where there is irritation on both sides and each jumps on almost every statement the other makes," said one Israeli source who declined to be named.

At the heart of the relationship is the strong antipathy between Israel's hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and President George Bush and his Secretary of State, James Baker.

"Bush and Baker are genuinely angry at Shamir and make little effort to disguise it," said William Quandt, a Middle East analyst with the Brookings Institution, a liberal Washington think tank.

"They think they want to considerable lengths to accommodate Shamir's approach to peacemaking and invested time and effort in it and at the last moment Shamir brushed them off. These are men who don't like to fail," he said.

Israeli-US relations have been through rocky times before. Their lowest point was probably in 1956 and 1957 when president Dwight D. Eisenhower forced Israel to retreat from the Sinai peninsula after its troops occupied the

desert territory. US opinion was outraged in 1982 by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and its indirect role in the massacre of Palestinians in Beirut refugee camps.

"The problem now is a long-term pessimism that is creeping into the relationship, almost entirely due to the attitude and actions of the Shamir government," said Geoffrey Kemp, an analyst with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The key event was the fall of the Israeli government in March after Shamir failed to endorse Baker's ideas for a peace dialogue with Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Since then, everything has gone wrong in the relationship. While Israel has groped for 10 weeks to find a new government, Shamir's caretaker administration approved new settlements in the territories and secretly financed the takeover by Jewish ultra-nationalists of a Greek Orthodox Hospice in the heart of the Christian quarter of occupied Jerusalem.

When Israeli troops and settlers killed 15 Palestinians while putting down riots in the territories following Sunday's murder of seven Arabs by a deranged Israeli, the administration reacted sharply.

Baker said Washington was prepared to discuss a Palestine Liberation Organisation proposal to send UN observers to the territories — a clearly implied vote of no-confidence in Israel's handling of the unrest.

Yemen forms unity govt

SANAA, May 25. (Agencies): Former North Yemeni Chief of Staff Brigadier Abdullah Hussein Al Bushairi will head the armed forces of the new United Yemen Republic. Radio Sanaa reported.

Al Bushairi was appointed to lead the 64,000-strong force by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the broadcast said late yesterday.

North and South Yemen united on Tuesday after three centuries of division. Its cabinet announced yesterday is a balance of northerners and southerners, with the defence portfolio going to southerner Brigadier Saleh Obeid Ahmed.

Former South Yemen leader Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas will serve as prime minister.

The number two post in the cabinet went to a northerner, Hassan Mohamed Makki, who is first deputy prime minister.

The top military job is held by a southerner, Brigadier Saleh Obeid Ahmed, deputy prime minister for security and defence.

Mujahid Abu Shwareb, a northerner, was named deputy prime minister for internal affairs and North Yemen's Foreign Minister, Abdul-Karim Al Iryani, a molecular biologist and polished diplomat, takes the post for the unified state.

The government has 20 northerners and 19 southerners. The new nation of 12 million people at the southwest end of the Arabian peninsula was proclaimed in the southern capital Aden on Tuesday with the approval of parliaments in both countries, ending three centuries of division. Sanaa, in the north, is the capital of the unified state.

South Yemen, based on the port of Aden at the mouth of the Red Sea, had been a British colony.

North Yemen, a fertile hill country, gained independence after the Ottoman Turkish Empire collapsed at the end of World War One. Civil war in the 1960s turned it from monarchy to a traditionalist, army-ruled republic.

The new cabinet was appointed by a five-member presidential council headed by Saleh.

South Yemen's Energy Minister, Saleh Abu Bakr Bin Housainoun, takes on the job of developing newly-discovered oil wealth, one of the factors that helped to bring about the long-cherished dream of unity.

The parliaments of the two countries are to unite as a single assembly on Saturday and endorse the government appointments.

Radio Sanaa added that President Saleh received a telephone call last night from Saudi Deputy Premier and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz congratulating him on the reunification of both Yemens.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in a congratulatory cable to President Saleh affirmed on the continuous support presented and to be presented by Soviet Union to the unification of both Yemens.

Yemeni opposition groups have won an official foothold in political life with the appointment of a handful of their members to the parliament of the three-day-old unified state.

President Saleh also named a 45-member council of advisers, including some powerful entities of unification like Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar, head of the northern Hashid tribal confederation.



Surveys Jabalya

An Israeli soldier using high-powered binoculars surveys the Jabalya refugee camp May 23 from an army lookout post. The entire Gaza Strip has been under curfew since May 20 when an Israeli shot dead seven Palestinians from Gaza, sparking off massive riots. Picture was taken during an Israeli army escorted tour for journalists as journalists are not allowed free, unlimited access in the Strip. (Reuters wirephoto)

making Western-style skirts, tight trousers

Germany, Spain," said Shaib, who runs the three-year-old factory and supervises more than 50 employees.

The factory does business with all Lebanese regardless of faith or sect and offers its clothes at cheap prices.

Its shop exports men's trousers and skirts and sells scarves, tunics, underwear and prayer rugs.

"Profits from our factory which are at least \$45,000 a year are used to expand the workshop which will provide more jobs for the oppressed. They will also go to orphans and martyrs' families," she added.

In the workshop next door to the display room, young women — all in long dresses and their hair concealed by dark-coloured scarves — worked away furiously, cutting patterns and sewing.

PHILIPPINES/SUB-CONTINENT

Communists warn Manila

MANILA, May 25, (Agencies): Communist guerrillas warned yesterday that they will launch "sustained partisan warfare" in Manila, trying to provoke a general insurrection during the next decade.

The Alex Boncayao brigade, Manila wing of the rebel New People's Army, issued the statement to news agencies on the sixth anniversary of their guerrilla unit. The anniversary came one day after suspected insurgents killed a Filipino colonel in a bold attack on a busy Manila street.

On Thursday, about 50 Brigade members shouted rebel slogans during a brief but noisy rally at a shopping centre along busy Epifanio de Los Santos avenue — the street where Wednesday's attack took place — before dispersing into the crowd.

Late Wednesday, about 50 Brigade members marched for about 15 minutes in the city's Santa Cruz district carrying banners calling for "insurrection."

There were no arrests in either incident. Until Wednesday however, the Brigade rarely had staged public protests in the capital.

In Friday's statement, the Brigade said: "We are entering a crucial decade of our struggle in which we hope to achieve complete victory. We have set up the comprehensive partisan machinery that will ensure sustained partisan warfare in the national capital region."

The statement said rebels had been able to launch raids and ambushes in the capital area and had assassinated "despotic enemies" in the police and military. The military blames the rebels for killing 50 soldiers, police and civilians in Manila this year.

But the statement made no mention of Wednesday's slaying of Col Reynaldo Dino, his daughter, two bodyguards and a woman bystander. Dino, deputy personnel chief of staff of the Philippine Constabulary, was to

US supporters rally for base extension

MANILA, May 25, (AP): About 3,000 supporters of US bases in the Philippines rallied yesterday to urge the government to extend the lease on the facilities beyond its September 1991 expiration.

Participants included bar girls, businessmen and others from Olongapo and Angeles, the homes of Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Base. They travelled to Manila in bus caravans for the rally in front of the Senate.

Last week, US and Philippine officials ended five days of preliminary talks on a new bases treaty and agreed to resume discussions in a few weeks.

Roberto Flores, president of the federation of Filipino Civilian Employees Association in the

bases, said they wanted to tell anti-bases senators that removal of the bases would mean hardships for base workers and their families.

Under the Philippine constitution, the US bases can remain after the current agreement expires on Sept 16, 1991, only under a treaty ratified by the 23-member Senate, where there is strong sentiment against the bases.

Addressing the demonstrators, pro-bases Sen. John Osmena said he favoured keeping the bases if the United States pays for them, adding that a national referendum should be held to ask the people whether they wanted the facilities to stay.

be promoted to brigadier-general next week.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos said Dino's assassination may have been carried out by guerrillas as part of a "summer offensive" against President Corason Aquino's government.

On Wednesday, presidential legal adviser Adolfo Azcuna acknowledged that the country was

still in a crisis after the Dec 1-9 failed coup and said the cabinet would ask congress to extend Aquino's emergency powers.

In their statement, the rebels urged cadres to organise workers, students and other Manila residents to form the "backbone of insurrection which we will launch in the near future."

■ Two soldiers patrolling a

residential area were shot dead by unknown attackers today in the second ambush on military personnel in Manila in three days, the military said.

Acting armed forces chief major-general Rodolfo Biazon said the military has beefed up security around the capital following the latest rash of killings and bombings.



Filipino workers from US military bases in the Philippines hold a placard in Manila calling for the retention of the facilities in the country. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bofors secrets in India hands

NEW DELHI, May 25, (UPI): The Swedish Ambassador Per Ketis has handed over to the Indian government secret portions of a Swedish probe into a \$1.3 billion sale of artillery to India, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

It quoted Ketis as saying, "I hope the Indian government will not reveal it."

The documents of the Swedish national audit bureau were handed over to the Indian Foreign Ministry following the Swedish Parliament's vote to hand over the classified portions of the findings to New Delhi, the agency said.

The audit bureau made public the findings in 1988, but classified parts of the report under Swedish bank secrecy laws.

But an Indian newspaper, the Hindu, published details of the suppressed portions in October 1989 that said A.B. Bofors deposited at least \$38 million in illegal payoffs in secret bank accounts to win India's biggest defence order.

The newspaper then claimed that the audit bureau findings conclusively proved that illegal payoffs were made to at least one Indian, contradicting denials by former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi that no Indians received illegal payments from the Swedish arms manufacturer.

The \$1.3 billion 1986 sale of 400 self-propelled 155mm howitzers has been enmeshed in allegations that Bofors passed massive kickbacks to senior Indian officials through middlemen.

The charges and publications by the Hindu damaged Rajiv's chances in the November 1989 Parliament polls.

The allegations were first aired by Swedish radio in April 1987, blotting Rajiv's image since he held the additional portfolio of defence.

India to continue Fiji campaign

NEW DELHI, May 25, (UPI): India said on Thursday it would remain a strong advocate of the rights of Fiji's ethnic Indians despite an order from the Fijian government to close its embassy in Suva.

"Racial discrimination is on the retreat even in South Africa. It cannot survive in Fiji for long," Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral told the lower house of Parliament, known as the Lok Sabha.

The Fijian government gave India 24 hours Wednesday to close its embassy in Suva and two weeks to withdraw its diplomatic mission from the country, a cluster of islands in the southwest Pacific with a population of 720,000.

The interim Fijian government accused India of interfering in its internal affairs and denounced New Delhi's decision to ban trade with Fiji and oppose its reversion to the British Commonwealth.

India has launched an international campaign against the Fijian government controlled by Col Sitiveni Rabuka, the architect of a 1987 coup that overthrew an elected coalition dominated by representatives of the island's ethnic Indians, who comprise about 51 percent of the population.

Tough action to curb clashes

800 arrested in Sind

KARACHI, May 25, (Reuters): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, expressing concern over worsening violence in southern Pakistan, today ordered the Sind provincial government to take tough action to halt ethnic clashes.

Presiding over a Sind cabinet meeting, she said she was dissatisfied with the government's efforts to prevent armed clashes between native Sindhis and Mobajir refugees from India.

"The life and property of all those living in Sind are close to my heart and they have to be protected at all costs," she said.

More than 70 people have been killed this month in Sind's main cities of Karachi and Hyderabad. Many were killed by gunmen firing indiscriminately from cars or motorcycles.



Benazir, back from a nine-day tour, telling a news conference in Islamabad that eight Muslim countries she visited backed Pakistan's demand for negotiated settlement of the dispute with India over Kashmir state. (Reuters wirephoto)

The prime minister urged the government to deal with troublemakers severely and called for action against policemen who failed to arrest criminals or who took sides.

Security forces swept through Sind province yesterday and arrested more than 800 people suspected in a wave of ethnic-related violence that has claimed dozens of lives, authorities said.

As soldiers, paramilitary troops and police launched the operation, two more people died from wounds suffered a day earlier in random shootings that have plagued Hyderabad for the past nine days.

Police said the suspects included members of Benazir's Pakistan People's Party and a militant faction of a small party representing Indian immigrants.

The operation will continue police said.

At least 60 people have been killed and hundreds more wounded by snipers since May 15, the Benazir left on a week-long tour of eight Middle East and North Africa countries.

"At a news conference in Islamabad, Benazir accused neighbouring India of stirring up trouble in Sind as well as the eastern province of Punjab.

"While in Sind, India started infiltrating its agents into ethnic groupings 10 years ago. In Punjab, the nefarious game began recently," she said.

New Delhi, in turn, regularly accused Pakistan of fomenting violence in Indian Punjab and Jammu-Kashmir.

About 2,000 paramilitary units, riot police and rangers have been patrolling the streets of Hyderabad, the second largest city in Sind to try to contain the violence.

Around-the-clock curfews supervised by the army have become a way of life for the city's 3 million residents.

Pakistan opposition parties accused Benazir's government of corruption and urged it to resign.

Benazir asked her top anti-corruption official to investigate.

More than a dozen members of parliament belonging to the Combined Opposition Parties (COP) coalition circulated documents at a convention at Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, levelling charges against government officials and Benazir's husband Asif Zardari.

The meeting later passed a resolution calling on Benazir's 18-month-old government to resign saying its "involvement in corruption has posed a threat to the integrity of the democratic process and the economy of the country."

Prosecutors alleged that Malik arranged for Samir Hou-chaimi of Amman, Jordan, to bring \$10 million worth of heroin to the United States.

Pakistani gets jail on drug charges

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts, May 25, (AP): A man whose defence to drug charges included claims that he was double-crossed in an assassination plot against Pakistan's late President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq was sentenced yesterday to 24 years and five months in prison.

Mushtaq Malik, 41, was convicted last year on charges of importing heroin and conspiracy to import.

Assistant US attorney Kevin O'Regan asked in federal court that Malik be sentenced to 30 years in prison, higher than federal sentencing guidelines of between 19 years and five months and 24 years and five months.

"Malik is an international narcotics trafficker of the highest level. Only the most serious puni-

ishment is appropriate in this case," O'Regan told US district judge Frank Freedman.

Malik's attorney, Michael Jennings, argued that a much lower sentence would be appropriate.

Freedman sentenced Malik to the maximum under the guidelines. Malik planned to appeal.

During the trial last November, Malik testified that he was double-crossed in a plot to kill Zia. Malik did not say whether he was involved in the mysterious plane crash that killed Zia on Aug 17, 1988, several months after Malik was arrested.

Prosecutors alleged that Malik arranged for Samir Hou-chaimi of Amman, Jordan, to bring \$10 million worth of heroin to the United States.

hospital with heart problems. She also suffers from arthritis and failing eyesight.

The candidates to replace her are no secret. The new superior will be chosen from among the order's six councillors-general by an electoral college selected by the order at large.

The councillors, chosen every six years by the electoral college, are the order's inner circle reporting directly to the superior-general.

Even though nuns at the Calcutta hostel for the destitute and dying do not speak in public about the succession, sources who know them say the foremost candidate for superior-general is Sister

NEWS IN BRIEF

Case against Marcos ally: The Philippine government yesterday filed a graft case against the chief business ally of late president Ferdinand Marcos for allegedly helping Marcos grab control of the country's largest newspaper chain, an official said.

A government commission in charge of investigating cases of ill-gotten wealth among Marcos allies filed charges in the anti-graft court against Eduardo Cojuangco, an estranged cousin of President Corason Aquino.

Matteo Caparas, the head of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, alleged Cojuangco served as a proxy for Marcos in running and managing the Manila Bulletin newspaper chain, the biggest in the country.

Cojuangco returned to the Philippines last November and is battling to regain control of beer based conglomerate San Miguel and other assets that were confiscated by Aquino's government when he fled the country after Marcos was overthrown in 1986.

1,500 flee rebel attack: Fifteen hundred tribespeople took shelter near military barracks in southeast Bangladesh after guerrillas burned their homes, military sources said on Thursday.

They said the autonomy-seeking Shanti Bahini (peace force) evicted 164 families from their homes in the Chittagong hill tracts this week when they refused to fight the government.

The refugees said the Shantis asked women and the elderly to go to refugee camps across the border in India and others to report for training. (Reuters)

Bag meets Ershad: Pakistani Army chief General Asif Zardari met President Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq in Islamabad, the official news agency BSS said.

The agency did not disclose the content of the talks, saying that it was a courtesy call.

The Pakistani general's visit has aroused curiosity as it comes amid increasing tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad over Kashmir. (UPI)

Businessman killed in Sri Lanka: Tension is running high Friday in Kalmunai, a predominantly Muslim-populated area, in the eastern province of Sri Lanka, following the killing on Thursday of Adnan Bawa, a prominent Muslim businessman and the leader of the People's Front of Liberation Tigers (PFLT), the political wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), security sources said.

The sources added that Bawa was a close associate of the island's Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mohamed Munsoor. (Kuna)

Eight expeditions set to scale K-2: Eight mountain climbing teams are set to scale K-2, the world's second tallest mountain, the state-run news agency reported Wednesday.

The teams represent the United States, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Bulgaria, Germany, Yugoslavia and South Korea, said the Associated



From hospital bed

Retired Brigadier General Alejandro Galido (right), gives testimony from his hospital bed in Manila May 24, to Philippine Senator Ernesto Maceda on the alleged participation of a US military agent in last December's coup attempt. (Reuters wirephoto)

Press of Pakistan: Another 60 other expeditions are expected to attempt to climb K-2 this year, it said. (AP)

Afghan spy killed: An Afghan spy was killed in a gunbattle with Pakistani troops after escaping from a Pakistani jail on Wednesday, official sources said.

The spy broke out of the jail before dawn in the North West Frontier Province town of Kohat with the help of a Pakistani guard.

But he was tracked down by troops in nearby mountains and killed in a gunfight. One soldier was also killed and three were wounded, the sources said.

There were no other details of the incident. (Reuters)

US scales Mt Kanchenjunga: The leader of a US mountain climbing organisation scaled the 28,169-foot-high (8,586-m) Mount Kanchenjunga, the world's third-tallest peak, by himself after his partner had to turn back, officials said Friday.

Mark Udall, 41, programme director of an outdoor board school in Denver, reached the summit from the mountains' southwest face May 15 after a 12-hour and 45-minute climb from his team's fourth camp at 25,600 feet (7,800 m), the Ministry of Tourism said. (UPI)

Tigers play deadly: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels, who now control one third of the island, are playing a deadly game of brinkmanship by provoking the army while the Colombo government seeks peace through talks, diplomats say.

The military has accused rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of kidnapping and assassinating a number of soldiers and policemen over the past several weeks.

Diplomats say the incidents are threatening an uneasy truce between the Tigers and the Sri Lankan army, who fought each other for seven years until 1989. (Reuters)

Church accused of relief abuse

Millions of dollars misused

NEW DELHI, May 25, (AP): A US audit of its aid to Roman Catholic charities in India shows bishops, priests and nuns misused millions of dollars worth of funds, officials said.

The audit report did not, however, charge the clergy involved with outright theft, and no individuals were identified.

The US embassy said today the Central Bureau of Investigation, India's version of the FBI, and the investigative wing of the US Agency for International Development are probing the abuses.

The audit, conducted by the US accounting firm Prince Waterhouse, said officials in India's Roman Catholic church, which receives about \$25 million worth of American food each year, drew up bogus lists of food recipients and used donations to conduct businesses.

Clergy also purposely exag-

gerated the amount of aid they distributed and filed false reports to hide the abuses, the audit said.

The audit was ordered by the inspector general's office of the US Agency for International Development and focused on Catholic relief services, a Baltimore-based charity that distributes food to 4,600 Indian Catholic organisations. They in turn distribute the food to the needy, mostly children and pregnant women.

News of the audit came first in today's editions of the Washington Post. Tribbles Basu, a partner at Prince Waterhouse in the Indian capital, said the audit did not accuse Roman Catholic clergy in an atmosphere whereby the commodities could be misused with little risk of detection.

"Quantities of food stored in warehouses did not tally with written records of food delivered to and distributed from these

warehouses," a US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Proper quantities of food were not distributed to beneficiaries and distribution of food was done irregularly or not at all at some sites."

The audit estimated that records for food distribution differed by about \$4 million with the actual food given out.

The US official said record-keeping was shoddy, food storage was poor and Catholic relief services had generally been a "deficient" monitor.

He said the due to the audit, Catholic Relief Services had cut back its operations in India. He said US aid was reconsidering its aid to the organisation.

James Deharporre, chief of Catholic Relief Services in India, acknowledged that his organisation had slowed operations but he denied there were widespread abuses.

D'Souza, a Goan, is favoured by many of the nuns, the sources say.

A science graduate who left a multinational company in Bombay to join the Missionaries of Charity, Sister Shanti took a medical degree at Mother Teresa's insistence and now supervises the order's medical section.

Sister Priscilla Lewis, an Anglo-Indian, is the youngest of the councillors and handles administrative chores as well as acting as the order's spokeswoman. The sources said she might be deemed too young to become superior-general.

Missionaries of Charity to pick new leader

CALCUTTA, May 25, (Reuters): The Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa's nuns, will pick a new leader later this year to replace their Nobel Laureate founder as superior-general.

The topic is so sensitive within the order she founded in 1949 that the 79-year-old nun has imposed a total information blackout at the order's headquarters in the Kalighat slum in India's largest city, Calcutta.

Mother Teresa, born in Yugoslavia of Albanian parents, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

She resigned as head of her order in April because of increasingly poor health. Last year she was fitted with a heart pacemaker and spent a month in

hospital with heart problems. She also suffers from arthritis and failing eyesight.

The candidates to replace her are no secret. The new superior will be chosen from among the order's six councillors-general by an electoral college selected by the order at large.

The councillors, chosen every six years by the electoral college, are the order's inner circle reporting directly to the superior-general.

Even though nuns at the Calcutta hostel for the destitute and dying do not speak in public about the succession, sources who know them say the foremost candidate for superior-general is Sister

Agnes, Mother Teresa's first and possibly closest disciple.

Sister Agnes, a Bengali formerly called Subhasini Das, was the first to join Mother Teresa when she opened her Nirmal Hriday (tender heart) hostel in Calcutta.

Since then the Missionaries of Charity have grown to more than 3,000 members operating 400 missions on five continents.

Sister Agnes is known for her administrative ability, experience and affable nature.

The order does not make public details of the life of Sister Agnes or any of the other councillors. Another middle-aged councillor, Sister Shanti

Lawyer testifies Khashoggi tie-up

NEW YORK, May 25, (AP): A Panamanian lawyer testified Wednesday that his firm was asked by friends of Imelda Marcos to make it look as if offshore companies they secretly controlled were actually owned by Saudi Arabian financier Adnan Khashoggi.

Attorney Jaime Arias said he refused to help them until the end of the firm agreed to handle a document that had been written by Khashoggi's attorney.

Arias was called to testify as prosecutors sought to show how Benvenuto and Gloria Tanco, intimates of former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, tried to keep the Caribbean-based companies from falling into the hands of President Corason Aquino's government after it took power in Manila in 1986.

Mrs Marcos, 60, is accused of helping her late husband, former president Ferdinand Marcos, amass more than \$220 million from the national treasury to secretly buy four New York properties and artwork.

The prosecution alleges that Khashoggi agreed to falsely claim ownership of the properties as a favour to the Marcoses.

Tanco, a one-time Philippine ambassador to the Vatican, and his wife also were named as co-conspirators in the 1988 indictment, but are fugitives. Mrs. Tanco was owner of Manila's leading department store and widely regarded as Mrs Marcos' closest friend.

Arias also was accused of mail fraud and obstruction of justice in the indictment but the charges were dismissed in exchange for his co-operation.

The government says the off-shore corporations, based in the Netherlands Antilles and the British Virgin Islands, were part of a network of Shell companies set up by the Marcoses to conceal their ownership of the New York properties and other financial dealings.

Arias said his law firm had assumed power of attorney for the New York properties in 1985, replacing a New York firm with which the Tancoos were feuding. Shortly after the Marcos government fell in February 1986, he said, he met with them in Rome to discuss a new crisis.

An Aquino government move to seize all Marcos holdings including the New York properties.

"They were worried about the impact of New York legal proceedings on their Philippines business and assets. If the companies were known to be theirs, it could have a negative impact under (the Philippine) monetary and tax laws," Arias said.

Arias said Mrs Tanco came up with the name of Khashoggi, a friend of the Marcoses, "as someone who might be able to help" if he would allow himself to be identified as the "beneficial owner" of the properties.

The lawyer said an agreement to this effect was reached in May 1986 after a series of meetings with the Tancoos and Karl Bock Peterson, an aide of Khashoggi, in Panama City. The Saudi financier was not present, he said, but some documents brought by Peterson bore the initials "A.K." along with some proposed changes in dates that would make it appear that Khashoggi had "organised and managed" the companies from 1981-on.

James Linn, Khashoggi's attorney, did not object to the papers being introduced as evidence by the prosecution, but asked Judge John F. Keenan to instruct jurors that they were only "drafts" and "not documents executed by Mr Khashoggi."

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Active trade

Dollar ends up against mark

LONDON, May 25. (Reuters) The dollar closed higher against the West German mark in Europe today but failed to recoup its overnight losses against the Japanese yen, dealers said.

Currency trading was active in Europe's morning after a busy session in Tokyo, but interest trailed off in the afternoon as London dealers had one eye on a long holiday weekend ahead. Markets in London and the United States will be closed on Monday for public holidays.

Gold edged up \$1.05 an ounce, recovering a hit more ground after Wednesday's plunge, to close in London at \$367.55 an ounce. It had finished at \$367.25 on Wednesday.

Currency market attention focused mostly on the mark-yen cross rate as the weak mark slipped more against a strong yen.

Worries about the political and economic impact of monetary union with East Germany are weighing heavily on the mark. This has been intensified by reports of disagreement among some West German political parties about the treaty on economic union.

The mark closed down in London at 88.97 yen compared with 90.65 yen yesterday.

The mark's weaker tone on the cross rate fed through to its performance against the dollar, which ended at 1.6795 marks in London compared with 1.6735 close yesterday.

The dollar ended at 149.75 yen in London against 151.70 after tumbling in Tokyo on bouts of heavy investor selling.

It is the first time the dollar has traded at less than 150 yen since March 6 and dealers say it is a strategic level. Its strength is widely seen as a technical correction to heavy losses earlier this year and many expect it to gain further.

"I think we will get to 148 or maybe 146 then think again," one London-based trader said.

The dollar was stronger against both Swiss and French francs, and little changed against the pound which has been well supported recently on hopes of earlier than expected entry into the European exchange rate mechanism.

The pound closed 20 cents lower at \$1.6900 but gained a penny to 2.8403 marks.

London shares were priced down as weakness on the futures market and early losses on Wall Street added to a sentiment that was still hurting from poor British trade figures for April which were released on Wednesday.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

TOKYO. May 25. (Reuters) The yen broke through 150 to the dollar, boosting the Nikkei index 482.13 points to 32,793.88.

SYDNEY. Players bought bank stock that had been oversold during the week. The All Ordinaries index ended 8.3 points up at 1,479.9.

HONG KONG. Profit-taking ahead of a three-day weekend checked an early rise but the blue chip Hang Seng index closed 11.49 higher at 3,059.50.

SINGAPORE. Most institutional players kept to the sidelines. The Straits Times index fell 2.33 to 1,565.35.

BOMBAY. The Bombay Stock

Exchange index closed 1.02 higher at 187.1 after a day of ups and downs. Hopes for good monsoon rains boosted fertilizer shares.

LONDON. The FTSE index, depressed by a drop on Wall Street, fell 11.5 to 2,265.6 in dull trade. P&O weakened after a judge refused to drop charges of corporate manslaughter arising from the Zeebrugge ferry disaster.

ZURICH. Blue chips slipped but the all-share SPI index gained a point to 1,433.8.

PARIS. Elf Aquitaine shed 26 francs to 706 on political unrest in Gabon. The CAC-40 fell 11.44 points to 2,111.9.

NEW YORK. Technology shares took a beating after software firm Adobe Systems predicted second quarter earnings sharply below Wall Street's hopes.

EEC won't tolerate barriers

Brittan warns airlines

BRUSSELS, May 25. (Reuters) The European Economic Community will not tolerate easy arrangements some carriers seem to be planning to protect their market share, Sir Leon Brittan, the European commissioner in charge of competition policy, said today.

"The airline industry in the community must understand that we are not dismantling the barriers simply to have them rebuilt by private agreements," he told a conference in London.

Brittan is masterminding competition policy as the EEC prepares to scrap trade barriers in a single market of 320 million consumers after 1992. His remarks were released in Brussels.

"We are particularly concerned that the major airlines might build fortresses for themselves by purchasing emerging competitors in their domestic markets," he said.

"We are also concerned about the trend towards European-wide networks and the possibility of so-called 'non-aggression pacts' between airlines," he added.

He cited Air France, Lufthansa and Iberia, as well as BA, Sabena and KLM as two groups that his team was scrutinising.

"I certainly will have no hesitation in applying the treaty (of Rome) rules, should such agreements be shown to have an adverse effect upon competition within the common market," Brittan said. This could involve fines, imposed either by the commission, or through national courts.

"It is worth reminding potential miscreants that the commission has traditionally imposed heavier fines on those who deliberately break the rules. I have yet to come across a convincing case of inadvertent predatory behaviour," he said.

Economic growth scaled back

WASHINGTON, May 25. (Reuters) A big sell-off of inventories during the first three months of 1990 slowed growth in the US economy to a 1.3 per cent annual rate instead of the 2.1 per cent estimated a month ago, the Commerce Department said on Thursday.

Prices boomed ahead at the fastest pace since late 1982. Despite the larger-than-expected revision down in first-quarter gross national product, or GNP, analysts said it put the economy in good shape for more steady, slow expansion.

"It suggests the economy is poised to continue growth in the second quarter, but at a soft pace and always provided that sales stay up," said Allen Sinai, chief economist with Boston Co.

NRI Investors' Forum holds meeting

Officials outline 3rd Gulf seminar

NRI Investors' Forum Kuwait under the chairmanship of C.S.S. Khanpuri held a general body meeting at the Indian embassy yesterday and he highlighted the salient features of the 3rd Gulf NRI seminar which will be held at Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi from July 4-6, 1990. The meeting was attended by several NRIs in Kuwait, including the officebearers of other associations in addition to its own members.

Abhay K. Mehta, chairman of the organising committee elaborated the envisaged programmes of the seminar. He pointed out that it is expected that a number of high level government officials, industry and investment experts, RBI and other bank officials; besides a number of leading NRIs from Gulf and other parts of the world will be attending the seminar.

The seminar will discuss an array of important subjects including FERA and taxation, bank and portfolio investments, projects and industrial investments, NRIs' education and resettlement requirements RIF.



R.P. Singh, (lith from left) first secretary of the Indian embassy pictured with other officials.

FEE and other issues.

R.P. Singh, first secretary, Indian embassy, briefed the participation of the various high

ranking government officials who will be attending the seminar. The delegation is expected to consist of more than 120

members from Kuwait alone. The highly subsidised rate for travels as well as hotels targets in Delhi.



C.S.S. Khanpuri addresses the meeting.

The seminar will present an excellent opportunity to the NRIs to meet and discuss a number of important issues with

officers, bankers and technical experts. A number of the NRIs from Gulf as well as the other parts of the world are expected to be present there.

Gururaj N. Rao the treasurer explained the registration procedure while R.C. Kohli and Ajay Kavlekar briefed the audience about the travel arrangements. Vijay Kapur convener, Overseas Souvenir Subcommittee, elaborated importance of bringing out the souvenir on the occasion.

The enthusiasm of the NRIs was revealed by the fact that there were several persons became members of the Forum and registered themselves as delegates. The number of delegates expected to attend the seminar from the Gulf countries expected to be about 300. The top level government officials and the delegates from India will be about 700.

H.V. Rangaswamy, managing director of Kuwait Indian International Exchange Company also outlined the importance of raising the fund for the seminar. K.A. Valsan Forum secretary expressed vote of thanks.

Economist sees \$18 price for oil

Opec's market share expected to rise

MANAMA, May 25. (AP) A prominent Gulf economist predicted yesterday that the \$18 per barrel price for oil will hold for another two years, and that the quota system of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will not be discarded till at least 1993.

"The \$18 reference price could remain the market clearing price for the first two years of the 1990s. Starting in 1992 we will assume the reference will be adjusted annually to compensate for the annual rate of inflation implying constant real prices up to the year 2,000," wrote Hamdi Azzam in the monthly bulletin of Bahrain's leading offshore Gulf International Bank.

According to the study, the reference price of Opec's basket of seven crudes is projected to stay at around \$18 a barrel in 1990 and 1991, rising to \$21.5 a barrel in 1995, assuming an annual inflation rate in the industrial-

ised world of around 4.5 per cent.

"By the year 2,000, the reference price of Opec crude in nominal terms is projected to reach \$27 a barrel," the study said.

The projections contrasted with demands within the Opec, led by Iraq, reportedly for raising the \$18 reference price by \$2 to keep pace with world inflationary trends.

At around the time Iraq's call was reported earlier this year, Kuwait also called for scrapping the quota system. Opec distributes production to its 13 member states by fixed quotas within an aggregate ceiling to defend required price levels.

The study said that conditions of excess oil supply on the world market are projected to prevail until 1992 "when the world demand for Opec oil would have grown sufficiently to allow each Opec member to produce at adequate levels commensurate with their financial requirements."

From 1993 onwards, Opec's market share is expected to rise steadily and significantly reaching 48 per cent of world total in 1995 and more than 53 per cent by the turn of the century, the study went on.

"This would make it possible for Opec to discard the quota allocation system and allow oil prices to float upwards in the market place," the study said.

The study expected the ceiling for oil prices in the later part of the 1990's to be dictated by the cost of competitive fuels such as synthetic oil.

The study reiterated standing Opec views that since around 65 per cent of total world oil reserves are in the Gulf region, the need for Gulf oil will be on the rise in the 1990s. The study referred to the anticipated expenditure of some \$50-60 billion to raise Opec's production capacity by 10 million barrels per day in the 1990s.

Call to cut excess output

Saudis make fresh bid

LONDON, May 25. (Agencies) Saudi Arabia issued a sharply worded call to other Opec producers yesterday to join it in cutting excess output, making a new bid to arrest a slide in prices under the weight of the latest world glut.

News that US crude oil stocks were at an eight-year high plus scepticism about promised Opec output cuts had sent New York futures down almost 80 cents per barrel on Wednesday.

Prices steadied yesterday. Traders decided to be cautious ahead of the three-day Memorial Day holiday weekend in the United States.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said yesterday that his country the world's highest oil exporter, had honoured a May 3 accord by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to cut production.

Now, others "should prove their serious intentions by implementing the agreement," he said.

Some analysts saw the statement as positive for petroleum prices. But others were worried that it implied a veiled threat that the Saudis might turn the taps back up again if others among the 13 Opec members did not stop quota-busting.

"The Saudis might lose patience," said Mehdi Varzi, who follows Opec for London-based Kleinwort Benson Securities. Nazer said his statement, issued on the official Saudi Press Agency, reacted to media reports doubting Opec's good faith.

Egypt races crucial budget

CAIRO, May 25. (Reuters) Squeezed by painful IMF demands and locked in a domestic legal crisis, Egypt is racing to push a new budget through parliament before a June 1 court deadline.

The government has the delicate task of cutting a massive deficit without sparking discontent among people who depend on subsidies for their daily bread.

A reduced deficit has been a key demand of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with whom Egypt has been negotiating for help in rescheduling some of its \$50-billion foreign debt.

Diplomats say a series of price rises in recent weeks has gone a long way toward satisfying the IMF, but has also led to grumblings of public discontent.

"More spending cuts will be difficult," said one Western economist. "Revenue raising now seems to be the big means."

The government would normally have presented its draft budget for the coming financial year late in June, but because of a high court ruling early this week Finance Minister Mohammed Razaz presented the document to parliament yesterday.

The Supreme Constitutional Court ruled the parliament had been elected illegally and legislation passed after the ruling is published in the official gazette on June 1 would not be valid.

If the budget is not approved it would be at least 60 days before a new parliament could be elected, further complicating delicate IMF negotiations.

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1. **AMOUNT OF ISSUE:**
The Amount of this Issue is KD 150 million distributed over THREE Denominations as follows:
KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500 000
2. **ISSUE DATE:** Wednesday 30 / 5 / 1990
3. **DUE DATE :** Wednesday 28 / 11 / 1990
4. **OFFERING PERIOD:**
From : Saturday 26 / 5 / 1990
To : Tuesday 29 / 5 / 1990
5. **ALLOTMENT:** Wednesday 30 / 5 / 1990
6. **DELIVERY OF BILLS:**
After one week following the date of submitting the application.
7. The Provisions of this Issue shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

Travel delegation visits Kuwait

India offers incentives to boost investment in tourism

MANISH BEHL, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and the accompanying travel trade delegation from India, M P Mascarenhas, regional director, Air-India, Gulf and Middle East and R.A. Stanislaus, asst. director, government of India Tourist Office, Dubai visited Kuwait and organised a trade presentation at the Hotel Meridien yesterday.

Tourism in India has emerged as a major socio-economic force during the last five years. The number of foreign tourists visiting India has increased by 11 per cent, and the country has gained in foreign exchange earnings by 13.8 per cent annually. The government of India has recognised tourism as a major thrust area for promotion and development.

The traditional stereotype image of India as a cultural destination is being replaced by a more vibrant one of diversified tourist attractions. Greater emphasis is being given now to develop leisure, recreational and adventure tourism.

In order to strengthen the tourism infrastructure, the government has announced a package of concessions and incentives in order to boost private investment in tourism related activities. The guidelines enunciated to operate air charters to India, have been further liberalised.

A new scheme for introduction of air taxis in the country has been launched. In order to facilitate foreign tourist movement to India, visa regulations have been relaxed and a number of areas in the country which need restricted area permits have also been reduced.

This is to indicate that the Indian government is doing its utmost to promote international tourism by opening new destinations and providing a more diversified tourism product keeping in view the demands of international tourism.

As a measure to provide the desired thrust, the government of India has decided to observe 1991 as Visit India Year. The

objectives such as: development of tourism product for future growth; creation of national awareness of socio-economic benefits of tourism; improvement of international image of India; and removal of bottlenecks and irritants to promote international tourism.

As a consequence of India's size, the history of the country has seldom been the same for two adjoining territories, and its great national wealth has lured a succession of traders and foreign influences to it, each having left their imprint in the country, however faint.

Localised modern India is home alike to the tribal with his anachronistic life and to the sophisticated urban jet setter.

It is a land where elephants exist amicably with the microchip. Its ancient monuments are the back-drop for the world's largest democracy where industrial development has brought the country within the world's top 10 nations.

In this milieu, a number of extensions to the existing 18 travel circuits have been identified to make many more places accessible to foreign tourists in an effort to provide them with sightseeing, adventure and leisure.

It would be the endeavour to make these circuits more comprehensive to give a richer experience to the tourists.

However, the Indian government proposes to sponsor 46 fairs and festivals throughout the country during the year of tourism to enhance the experience of visiting India.

India reflects the spirit of adventure. Here, in this exciting country with its diverse terrain, the quest for the nouvelle is sustained in unusual sport activities and yet they allow for fascinating glimpses of traditional, mystic India.

A number of adventure activities are being consciously promoted by the Indian government to provide an unusual experience to the tourist. Recently, heliskiing and other winter sport activities have been



Picture shows Manish Behl pictured with the other officials.



M P Mascarenhas addresses the meeting.



Some of those who attended the conference.



P K Kanga (left) Air-India's manager, Kuwait, talking to Yousuf Aliyan, Editor-in-Chief of the Kuwait Times.

introduced which are becoming very popular with the foreign tourists. Many of these adventure activities take place in the gigantic Himalayas or on the vast stretches of the beaches in India.

India also provides ample opportunities for leisure during summer months. Special facilities are being developed along the beaches of the country and at various hill stations in the Himalayas and Nilgiri Hills in

the south. Along with leisure, adventure activities for tourists are being developed to enhance the experience of tourists visiting India during summer.

India has now reached a stage where she can be recognised the world over as a leading tourist destination. Efforts are being made to project India as the destination of the 1990s. The traditional stereotyped image of

India as a cultural destination is being replaced with a more vibrant image of diversified tourism product.

In order to give the desired thrust, the Ministry of Tourism has decided to observe 1991 as Tourism Year. In the tourist generating overseas markets the department would observe 1991 as 'Visit India' Year.

In order to promote all parts of

India as a tourist destination, the emphasis during the 'Tourism Year' would be on the following: project new tourist destinations and activities; promote shopping as a major attraction; stress the cultural richness of India and also highlight its suitability as an all the year-round destination; and promote India as a major covention/conference centre; emphasis on promoting adventure tourism and special interest tourism.

For the Tourism Year, 18 extension circuits have been identified in consultation with state government and industry. These circuits are connected with the existing circuits, which are already well known the world over and would need a little effort to promote them.

At some of the destinations of these circuits, performing art

programmes will be organised in order to further revive the old dance and music forms of the country.

The idea would be to make the circuits more comprehensive. Food festivals related to the local cuisines will also be organised. It is proposed to strengthen infrastructure facilities at destinations related to these circuits. Publicity and promotion material on these circuits is under preparation.

World trade talks enter critical stage

LONDON, May 25, (Reuters): After almost four years of talk, stalemate and crisis, rich and poor nations have just 200 days left to negotiate the most ambitious liberalisation of world trade ever attempted.

Finance and trade ministers from major industrial nations will next seek to inject a new sense of urgency into the GATT talks, knowing they are running out of time to bridge gaps that span almost every aspect of trade and commerce.

Failure could force nations back into warring trade blocs and reverse four decades of steady, if painful, liberalisation negotiated through the Geneva-based world trade body, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, set up in 1947.

Success would break down protectionist barriers and subsidies that distort the \$3,000 billion of world trade each year and for the first time draft a code to regulate rapidly expanding service industries, a business now worth annually more than \$600 billion.

"We must inject more political momentum into the process now," said Anna Murphy, research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies (Ceps) in Brussels. "The danger is everyone is just going to leave it too late to work out the technicalities."

As if waking up from a slow-motion dream, politicians in the industrial world have suddenly started to take the "Uruguay round" of GATT negotiations — begun in Punta Del Este in 1986 — seriously and are pushing it to the top of the agenda.

Trade and finance ministers of the 24 industrial nations that make up the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Oecd) will devote much of their annual talks in Paris on Wednesday and Thursday to trying to settle squabbles in three main areas — agriculture, textile and services.

And leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — plan to give the complex GATT process another push at their world economic summit in Houston in July.

Without a G-7 accord on divisive issues, the industrial world will be unable to enter into serious talks with developing nations such as Brazil and meet GATT's end-year deadline.

"There's not much time to reach the agreements that will make the difference between success and failure," Oecd secretary-general Jean-Claude Paye said last week. "Nobody can afford the luxury of failure."

India seen as premature

Iran plan to sell gas to Pakistan

DUBAI, May 25, (Reuters): An ambitious plan by Iran to sell natural gas via a 3,000 km (1,900 mile) pipeline to Pakistan and India will remain a dream for some time because Tehran is short of finance, Gulf Oil Industry Analysts say.

"Iran does not have the money to invest in such a big scheme ... the line to Pakistan and India is a dream at the moment," a Gulf-based oil industry executive said.

The pipeline project, discussed earlier this month when Iran's Economy and Finance Minister Mohsen Nourbakhsh visited Islamabad, would cost billions of dollars and take years to complete, oil industry sources said.

Tehran is still severely short of

hard currency and has high hopes for its gas, seen as an energy source of the future in a world increasingly worried about pollution.

Natural gas produces little pollution compared to oil.

Iran has proven natural gas reserves of around 14.2 trillion cubic metres (500 trillion cubic feet), second in the world after those of the Soviet Union.

The country plans to spend around \$1.4 billion in the next two years to push up gas production for local use and exports. It restarted natural gas exports to the Soviet Union last month after a 10 year break at a rate of three billion cubic metres (100 billion cubic feet) a year, which

will earn Tehran a minimum of \$300 million annually in the next 15 years.

The cash will be used to finance industrial and power plant construction projects in Iran undertaken by Moscow.

The scarcity of funds last March led Tehran to invite foreign oil companies to develop oil and gas fields, to be paid by future output.

But Tehran's political ties with the West remain strained and most Western oil firms have kept away with no major deals emerging, oil industry sources said.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, during a visit to Tokyo in April, proposed Japanese companies form a mul-

tinational company with Western firms, excluding Iran, to develop the big Pars gas field which lies offshore Iran in the Gulf.

The plan, estimated to cost \$3.2 billion including gas liquefaction facilities, is meant to export the liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The scheme, which Tehran said would guarantee long-term supplies for up to 20 years, is being studied by Japanese companies, the sources said.

Despite its big reserves, Iran's annual commercial natural gas output is only a little over 20 billion-cubic metres (700 billion cubic feet), less than half of Algeria's production.

Iran to seek Japanese aid

Bid to revive economy

TOKYO, May 25, (Reuters): Iran will apply for Japanese government loans to the near future to revitalise its war-torn economy, the Iranian Ambassador to Japan, Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, said today.

"We're on the right track to implement our five-year economic plan. We will ask the Japanese government for official development assistance (ODA)," he told Reuters.

Iran's emphasis on foreign loans reflects President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's bid to rebuild the economy and its financial links with other countries after eight years of war with Iraq ended in mid-1988.

Last week, Iran's Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hussein Adeli was quoted by the official Iranian news agency Irna as saying Iran

would borrow from the International Monetary Fund if and when this became necessary.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said earlier this year that Iran had sounded Tokyo out on the requirements and procedures for receiving yen credits, but had not yet officially sought them.

The Iranian parliament has authorised the government to seek \$27.6 billion in foreign credits under a five-year economic development plan.

Ardebili, who took up his post this year, said Iran would be able to provide revised per capita gross national product data in about a month or so after consultations with the IMF and the World Bank.

He said the data would demonstrate that Iran was eligible for yen credits. Japan limits credits to countries where per capita GNP is no more than \$2,200 to the year to March 31, 1991.

G-15 summit

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, May 25, (AP): The heads of government will attend the Group of 15 summit conference beginning here June 1. Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad said today.

Mahatir, speaking to reporters, said heads of government from Algeria, Argentina, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe and Malaysia were planning to attend the three-day conference.

Heads of government of the other five countries — Jamaica, Egypt, Brazil, Mexico and Peru — could not attend and were expected to send representatives, he said.

Ryzhkov appeals for consumers not to panic

MOSCOW, May 25, (AP): Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov said today a wave of panic buying had swept half the country in the wake of announced price increases and economic reform plans. He called for Soviet consumers to show restraint.

In Moscow, shoppers formed longer lines than normal at some stores to buy whatever they could get.

"This is the first time I saw people lining like this for some cheap cereals," said a customer at a store in the city centre.

The buying spree came a day after the government announced the price of bread would triple July 1 and most other prices would jump in January as part of plan to introduce market forces to the centrally plan-

ned economy.

"I am appealing for restraint and calm," Ryzhkov told reporters at a Kremlin news conference.

He said the government knew announcing price rises in advance would lead to hoarding and panic-buying, but that it wanted to "tell the people honestly."

"Now this wave (of panic buying) on bread and bread products has already rolled through half the country, and its gotten to Moscow," he said.

"In some places, it has quieted down already," Ryzhkov said. "People are starting to understand. A lot of what we buy today will simply rot."

Ryzhkov disclosed details of the plan in a

speech Thursday to the Supreme Soviet legislature, which must approve it. A small group of opposition members said they would seek a vote of no confidence in the government because of the plan.

"If there is no confidence in the government, then what?" Ryzhkov said today. "A new government will work."

The opposition members say they know a no-confidence motion would fail but that they want to make the political gesture. Radical economist Pavel Bunich told the Supreme Soviet today the government had rejected more radical reforms only to offer "shock therapy without the therapy" — reforms that will hurt without leading to a real market system.

Domestic consumption on the rise

Indonesia raises prices of fuels

JAKARTA, May 25, (UPI): Indonesia today raised the price of its domestic fuels by an average of 15.27 per cent, with kerosene, the main source of energy for many of the Indonesia's 180 million people, increasing by 21.2 per cent.

The price hikes will not affect Indonesia's oil exports, government officials said in making the announcement late Thursday on national television.

The officials, Radio Prawiro, co-ordinating minister for economy, finance and industry, and Giandjar Kartasmita, mines and energy ministers, said the hikes were designed to encourage more efficient use of energy and to reduce pressures on the state budget.

As a result, kerosene, the main source of energy for many of the 180 million Indonesians who have no access to electricity, increased by 21.2 per cent to

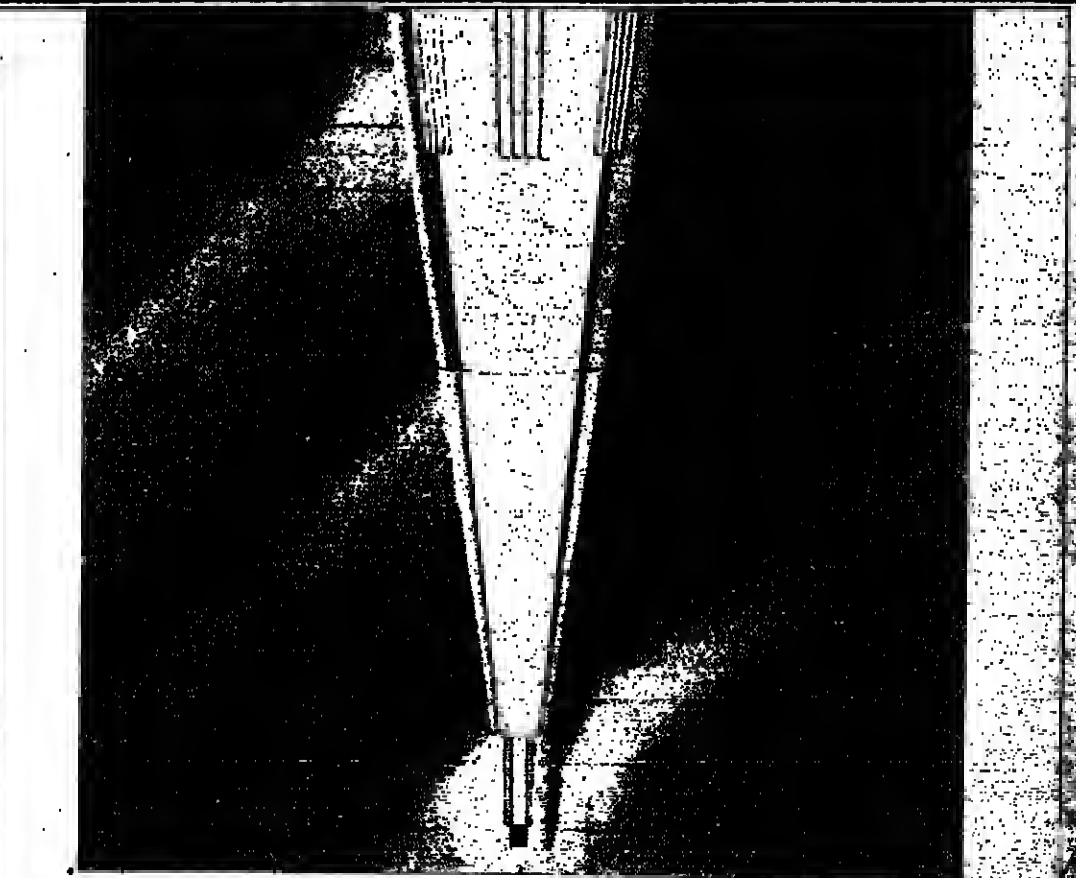
10 US cents per litre. Industrial fuels increased by up to 17.5 per cent to 12 US cents per litre.

Aviation fuels increased by 32 per cent to 18 US cents per litre, premium gasoline went up 16.8 per cent to 24 US cents per litre, and automotive diesel increased by 22.5 per cent to 13 US cents per litre.

Giandjar said the price increases were necessary to meet national economic targets.

"With the fuel oil price increases, there is no longer any need for a government subsidy," Giandjar said, "except a cross subsidy between the 'haves' and 'have nots'."

Radias said the new prices were established so that the system of cross subsidisation of some products widely consumed by low-income people was still maintained. Kerosene and fuel oil — used largely by manufacturing companies — were still subsidised, he said.



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EVENTS

SUNDAY

May 27
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Beachcombers: "Unlikely Allies 2". Nickie discovers a smugglers gang and asks Relic to help. Will the offenders be brought to justice?
7.00 In the Shadow of Fujisan: Turtles thrive on Japanese territory. Documentary.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Matlock: "The Reunion". A lawyer's murder puts Matlock on the trail of the killers.
9.30 Body Matters: "Against All the Odds". This episode examines organ transplants and why some human bodies reject.
10.00 The Nitt House: Sally borrows money to help her mother and finds the money has been stolen. Comedy.
10.30 Best-Seller: "Champagne Charlie". Charlie inherits a huge fortune but his uncle threatens to disinherit him. Drama.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown



Robert Clothier and Bruno Gerussi play Nick and Relic in 'Beachcombers' on Sunday.

MONDAY

May 28
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Thunder Cats: Cartoons
6.30 Animals of Africa: Hippopotamus.
7.00 Roving Report: Weekly roundup of Arab and world news.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: "A Fish Called...". Charles is uncertain about his friendship with Barry. Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Around the World: As the title suggests, this documentary brings news and views from countries around the world.
9.00 The Equalizer: "Time Present, Time Past". McCall's son has been kidnapped and the Bulgarians are reportedly holding him. Can McCall rescue his son? Starring: Edward Woodward.
10.00 Family Matters: "False Arrest". The family prepared for a TV actor's visit but Carl believes the man is an impostor. Comedy.
10.30 Classic Colour Movies: The Fighting 69th Regiment. Starring: James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, George Brent. Set in World War I, it



Edward Woodward plays Time in 'The Equalizer'.

tells the story of a cocky soldier who becomes a hero.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
TUESDAY
May 29
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Lone Ranger
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: A variety show for young viewers from Disney.
7.00 Quran and Science: Various aspects of science and their reference in the Quran are examined in this programme.
7.30 Kate and Allie: on the sets. Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law: Prepared by the Ministry of Interior, presented by Ali Noor. Focus on local laws.
8.50 Bordertown: "Slave". This serial continues with the story of a small town. Tonight, a husseinman visits a slave farm.
9.15 Horizon: "Catch A Falling Star". A survey of astronomy in Cambridge, Oxford and Europe. Documentary.
10.00 Murphy Brown: "Soul Man". Murphy plans to visit a male-only club. Comedy.
10.30 Wolf: Tony's friend has been murdered and the former policeman is charged with the crime. Is he innocent. Action.
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

WEDNESDAY

May 30
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Mickey Donald
6.30 Hotshots: Mystery-adventure series featuring a miniature car racing team, an enterprising children's gang — Kristy, Micro, Steve and Michelle — a kidnapped professor and a counterfeiting den.
7.00 Beyond 2000: This documentary examines the latest in science and technology. Tonight, computer-aided brain scan; and how the brilliant human minds function.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Sciences Edition: Focus on scientific advances and their application to improve daily life.
9.00 Booker: "Who Framed Booker Throtoot". Booker is hired by a fashion house to find a killer. Starring: Richard Gere.
10.00 Cine Club: Presented by Farouq, Abdul Aziz. (The film has not been announced.)
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

THURSDAY

May 31
6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Police Academy: Cartoons.
6.30 Mr Wizard's World: An educational programme for young viewers, it focusses on magic, illusions and scientific experiments.
7.00 Wild America: The wildlife of Dakota is featured on tonight's show.
7.30 Munsters Today: "Once In A Blue Moon". Lily's mother pays a visit... Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Beauty and the Beast: "At Midnight". Diana follows the clue to find Vincent's kidnapped son; and Gabriel sets an ambush to capture Vincent. Starring: Ron Perlman.
9.30 Bill Cosby Show: Theo plans a trip to Cairo and tries to convince the Huxtables that he would behave himself. Comedy.
10.00 Just for the Record: Record-breaking feats are captured on camera for this show.
10.30 Thursday Night Movie: "Under the Rainbow".
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY

June 1
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Popeye and Son: Cartoons
6.30 Family Feature Film: "The Legend of Young Dick Turpin". The adventures of Dick, who runs away from his farm to find a better life in London. On the way, he overcomes many obstacles.
8.00 News in English
8.45 Globe TV: A Ticket to the World: Global television magazine shows — looking at the global village.
9.30 Weekend: Produced by KTV 2, this show focuses on local cultural news and views. Presented by Adeb Shuaiber and Maha Motawi.
10.00 Tales from the Darkside: Strange and bizarre stories are featured in this serial. Tonight, a man dreams he has been compelled to stop smoking...
10.30 Wiseguy: "Day Four". General Masters' plot against Winnie and Frank comes to light.
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown



Murphy Brown (Candice Bergen) breaks into a male-bastion in this week's episode.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Holy Quran
9.40 Good Morning
9.50 Kaola: cartoons
10.10 News Summary
10.15 World News Via Satellite (repeat)
10.30 Wajhai Nazar: Arabic serial, part 2.
11.25 Alabiny: Arabic play featuring Dania Fahad, Khaled Sami, Youssef Yusuf. Directed by Ahmad Da'eso.
12.30 News Summary
12.35 Closedown

Evening
4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News Via Satellite
5.00 Sally: cartoon serial
5.10 Fanan Sagheer: Young Artists. Presented by Mohammad Al Sheikh
6.00 Ayyam Al Ramad: Arabic serial; ep. 10
7.00 Songs
7.15 Noor Al Islam: religious programme presented by Ahmad Abdul Qadir.
7.45 Nazrat Al Alam: cultural programme
7.50 Security and Citizens: presented by Interior Ministry; directed by Kazeel Zamel.
8.30 Good Evening: magazine show
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Daerat Al Ahdath: weekly show presented by Kamal Abdul Jalil.
11.15 Sa'alek - Lakin Shu'ara: part 4. Starring: Mahmood Masoud, Muna Wasef, Ahmad Maher, Laila Hamada, Ashraf Abdul Ghafoor, Abdul Rahman Abu Zahra.



Cartoons are shown on both KTV channels (see listing).

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Brave Star: cartoon serial
6.30 Take Hart: programme for children
7.00 Survival: "The Winged Messenger". Tonight's show examines the migration of cranes from western Africa to Sweden.
7.30 Out of This World: "Evie's Driving Licence". Evie is prepared for the driving test...
8.00 News in English
8.40 Philip Marlow: "Red

Winds". Marlowe witnesses the murder of a driver, employed by a prominent politician.
9.30 The Road to War: "Italy". Italy invades Ethiopia in 1935 triggering the most serious crisis since 1914. Was Mussolini intent on leading Europe into another world war? Documentary.
10.30 Saturday Movie: "Burning Rage". Starring: Barbara Maudslai, Carol Cane. A small town's resident disregard warning signals and disaster strikes at some mining sites.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Sports TV

Channels 6/45
7.00 Amir Cup finals



Farewell

Noted Kuwaiti businessman Hassan Rajah on Thursday hosted a dinner to say farewell to outgoing Indonesian Ambassador Djamatuddin Joeda and his wife. Joeda, who completes his term will be leaving Kuwait shortly. A large number of ambassadors and diplomats attended. Above: host Hassan Rajah (top left) with some of the guests, including Joeda (right); below some of the ambassadors who attended.



Love Mantra performed

The Narmada Theatres, an Indian group, recently staged a social drama entitled A Love Mantra from Ujjain at the IAC. It was directed by Jayan Pattathu. Co-director was Shirley John. Pictured on right are Ameen Mohammad, Rajan Menon, Thomas Kurlan, Shirley John, Verge Maiman, Leelamma Joy, Jaya Menon, Shiny John, Chandran, Jayan Pattathu, Prasad K. Mathew and K.T. Paul.



WHAT'S ON

Arts

Boushahri Gallery
A MONTH-LONG exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists is now being held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg. Salem Al Mubarak St. The works of such artists as Jaafar Isah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dafa Al Azawi and Saleh Jamsel are on show. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm; 4 to 7.30 pm; until month end.

Theatre

Tamil Drama
MAY 25: IAC presents a full-length comedy drama, produced by The Enthusiasts, entitled *Unnaiye Un Vilai Enna* (Crazy Thieves) 7 pm; directed by C.V.K. Raman. IAC Box Office open on May 23-24, 6 to 8.30 pm. For entry passes call 3904817, 5616930, 4889874, 3903879.
Kuwait Players
KUWAIT Players present 'A Room Full of Foreigners', a comedy, nightly at 8 pm from May 28 to 31, both days inclusive, at UAS, Salwa. For reservations call 5321294, 5615357.
IAC One-Act Play Contest
May 30: Madhu and Friends present *Krihuv Nanni*; Malayalam; Stage Index perform *Shanti Parvati*.

Malayalam
May 31: Bengali Cultural Society's *Maarich Songbad*; Bengali; IAC badminton team perform *Chatterman and His Clan*; Malayalam. Nathya Bharati present *Kafan* (Shroud); Hindi.
June 1: Award Nite and Entertainment Show, followed by dinner at 7 pm.
All performances at IAC, Funites: 7.30 pm. For details call 3904817. Entry passes for all performances, including Award Nite are available from IAC.

Social

Kuwait Players AGM
JUNE 4: Kuwait Players annual general meeting; 8 pm, Al Foz, Messilah Beach Hotel.
LIL
May 28: Monday, 10 am to 12 noon; Ladies International League (LIL) hold Newcomers Meeting: coffee morning; Sheraton Hotel, mezzanine. Ladies of all nationalities welcome. For details call Ann — 531-6905.
June 4: LIL will hold Latino programme, Regency Palace Hotel; 8 pm sharp; doors open: 6 pm; close: 7.45 pm. No one will be allowed to enter after programme begins. Door charge. Extravaganza features performers from Columbia, Bolivia, Argentina and other Latin countries.

Sport

Filchess Chess Tournament
THE Filipino Chess Club, Kuwait, will hold the Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament. Teams: four regulars, two stand-bys. Group A: Boards 1/2; Group B: Boards 3/4.
Open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts. Entry forms from Kabayan Restaurant. Last date for entries: May 25. Tournament starts June 1 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For further details contact 2402405.

Competition

Approb Essay Competition
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen holds an essay competition. Essays on "My Role in Building a Better Pakistan" can be submitted by Pakistani students. Open to juniors (12-14); seniors (15-18). Essays of between 1,000 and 1,500 words can be written in English and Urdu.
Send essays to Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya. 22024, Kuwait. Last date for entries: May 31. For details contact 2425315.

Hotels

At the Sheraton
Riccardo Asparagus promotion, until May 26; plus Italian cuisine; dine to the sounds of Franco and Regina.

At Ramada Al Salam
Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.
Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.
Al Gandou Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.
Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.
Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests.
Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the SAS
Bistro: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.
Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.
Clock, snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the Meridian
La Brasserie Restaurant
Wednesday: Indonesian Corner, cuisine prepared in front of you.
Thursday: Jazz Night — jazz music, seafood specialities.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.
Versailles: Business lunch and dinner featuring fondue; grilled food.

At the Plaza
Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.
Lotus Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.
Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiyah: open Around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.
Al Jawahira: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.
Al Berdownh BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

Summer Rock Concert
June 4/5/6: High Spirits and Seventh Sky rock concert; music from Police, Dire Straits, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses etc. For reservations call 5387988/2563395 after 5 pm.

Lecture

Higher education
MAY 28: 6 pm. Lecture and video show: "Access to your first degree" focus on how to get on a British degree programme. Open to Kuwaiti, Indian and Pakistani students and parents. At the British Council, Mansouriya. Reserve seats. Tel: 2520067 & 9 and ask for Kate Harries or Elizabeth Locky.

Music

Summer Rock Concert
June 4/5/6: High Spirits and Seventh Sky rock concert; music from Police, Dire Straits, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses etc. For reservations call 5387988/2563395 after 5 pm.

Prayers

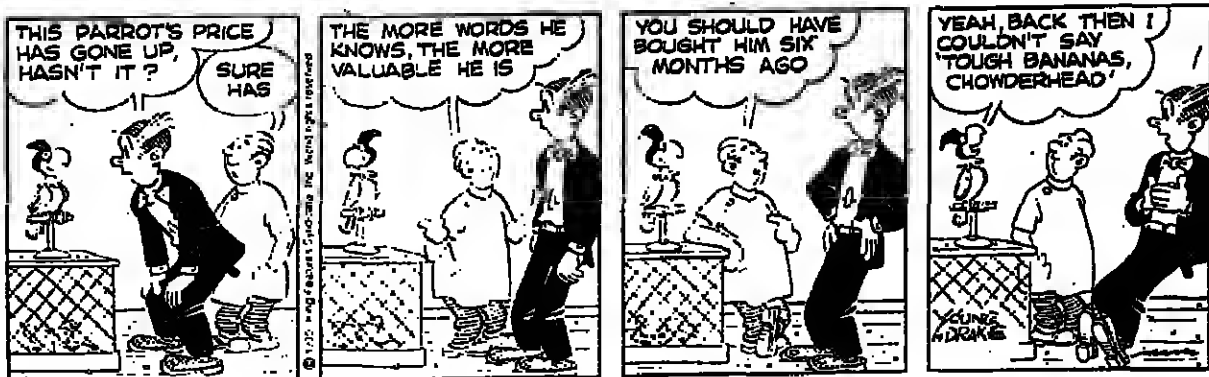
Fajr 3.18 am
Dhuhr 11.45
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 6.40
Isha 8.09

CINEMA TODAY

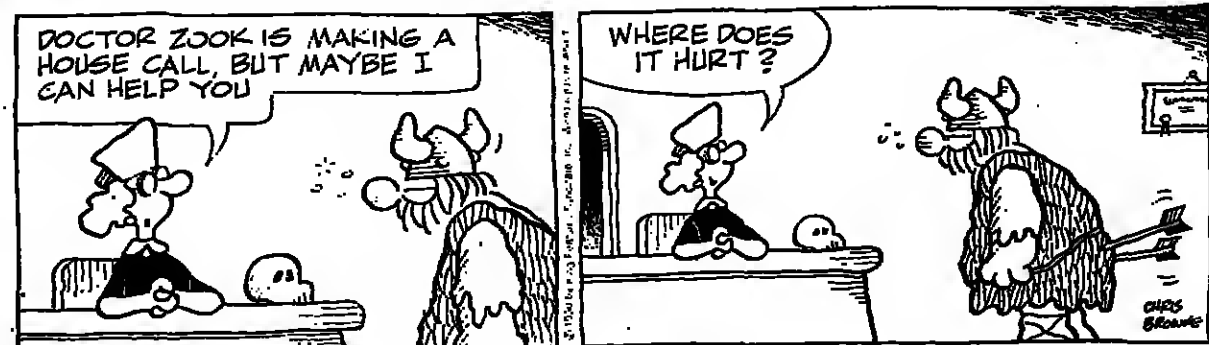
Al Andalus
Hanafi Al Abhab (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi, Farouq Fishawi
Al Salmiya
Al Raqqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil.
Al Hamra
Hanafi Al Ubbah (Arabic)
Drive-In
Al Raqqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)
Al Firdous
Aakhri Baazi (Hindi)
Starring: Govinda, Mandakini.
Fahad Open-Air
Mera Suhaag (Hindi)
Al Fahad
Kireedam (Malayalam)
Al Jahra
Husty Granada
Oasis of Lost Women
Salaikhah
Al Inteqam Hubah (Arabic)
Al Jleeb
Ulsava Pittenu (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Sisterhood

● All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



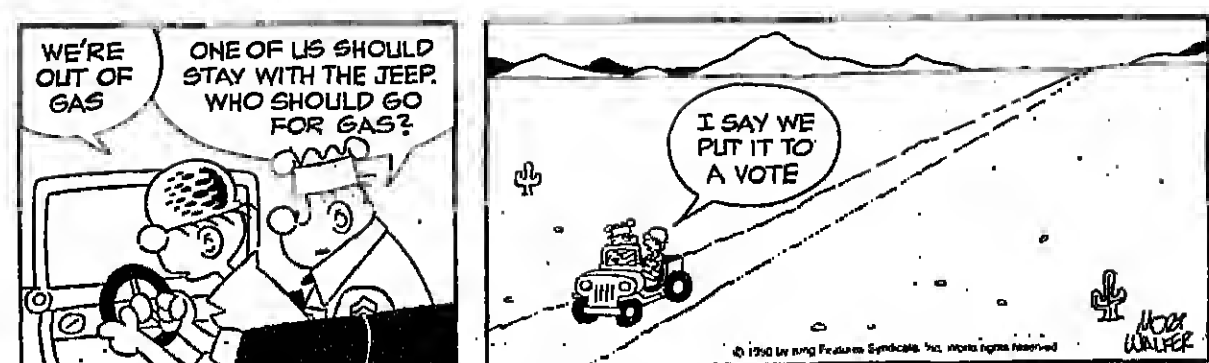
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



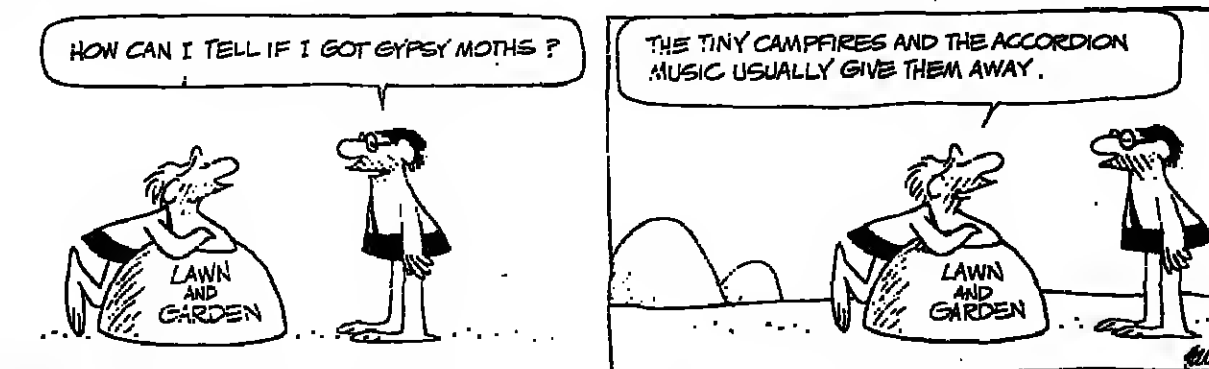
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



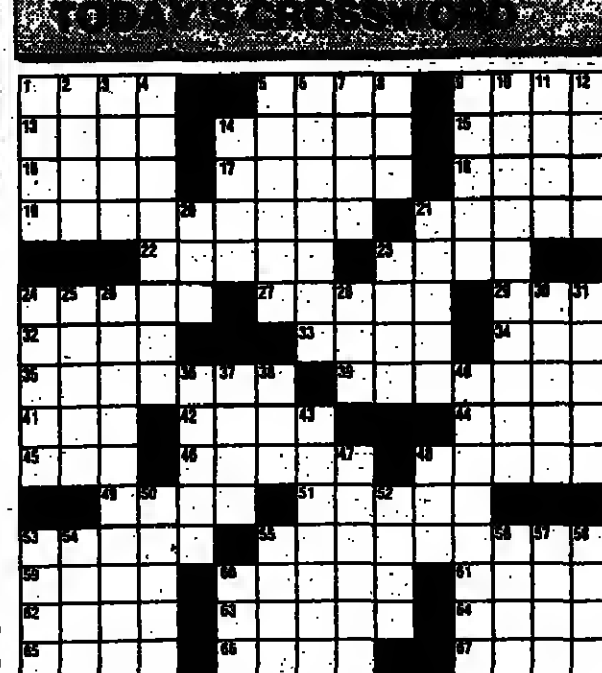
ANDY CAPP



B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



- ACROSS**
- Leaves out
 - Paraphernalia
 - Travel agent's org.
 - Composer Johann Sebastian
 - Wyatt Earp's star
 - Cowed
 - Words of understanding
 - Sign of the Zodiac
 - Italian painter Guido
 - 1575-1642
 - Boaters
 - Crow
 - It takes two to dance it
 - Get out of breath
 - Make changes
 - Faux pas
 - Small bribe
 - Comprehensiva
 - qua non
 - essential
 - Law Wallace
 - hero
 - Hairy
 - Feeling of contempt
 - Table scrap
 - Group of pheasants
 - Egg on
 - Concert piece: Abbr.
 - Jeremy, the actor
 - Singer — John
 - Major trailer
 - Round timber used for support
 - Bear's favorite
 - Golf attire for Bobby Jones
 - Galena, etc.
 - Window dressing
- DOWN**
- Maat for a stew or chop
 - Treaty
 - Extremely angry
 - Nobel Peace prize-winner
 - Wesley
 - Very dark
 - Table spread
 - Depend upon
 - accessories
 - Ship's pole
 - Bakery worker
 - Performance sites
 - Place for a sale
 - Members of the Fourth Estate
 - "Rock of —"
 - Matter, in law
 - Baseball's Hank
 - Part of a jogger's outfit
 - Perfect numbers
 - Mina entrance
 - Road, in Germany
 - Part of a
 - Discloses title
 - Corn bread
 - Aramis' friend
 - River to the Bay of Biscay
 - Sweater, of a sort
 - Dispose of
 - Expenditures
 - Dress up
 - Oneness
 - Become bored with
 - Tokyo, formerly
 - Ditto 26 Down
 - Subjugate
 - Work area for the creative
 - Mischievous child
 - Irritable
 - Like a second-hand car
 - Pueblo Indian
 - Algerian seaport
 - Dominique
 - River in Zaire
 - Berates harshly
 - Weaver's reed
 - Word on a street-corner sign
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- SHAW ROWAN ISIS
HERE EDILE RENT
IRMA OELIBERATE
PROPERTY UNISON
ROSES SLIT
AGENTS HEADACHE
MOD ESTATE TEAL
LUCAS RIA PENTA
GEAR COLLAR TET
ARRIVALS DIVIDE
SELL LOCAL
SALTED AUDELHAM
PREARRANGE ETNA
ANAT OTTER RENO
TONE NEARS ARES

A TOUCH OF LARCENY

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A K Q 6
 ♥ 8 6
 ♦ 10 6 3
 ♣ A J 10 9

WEST
 ♠ 10 9 7 2
 ♥ 7 5 3
 ♦ J 8 5
 ♣ Q 7 3

EAST
 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ A J 10 4
 ♦ A Q 9 4
 ♣ 5 4 2

SOUTH
 ♠ J 8 4
 ♥ K Q 9 2
 ♦ K 7 2
 ♣ K 8 6

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
 3 NT Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Seven of ♣

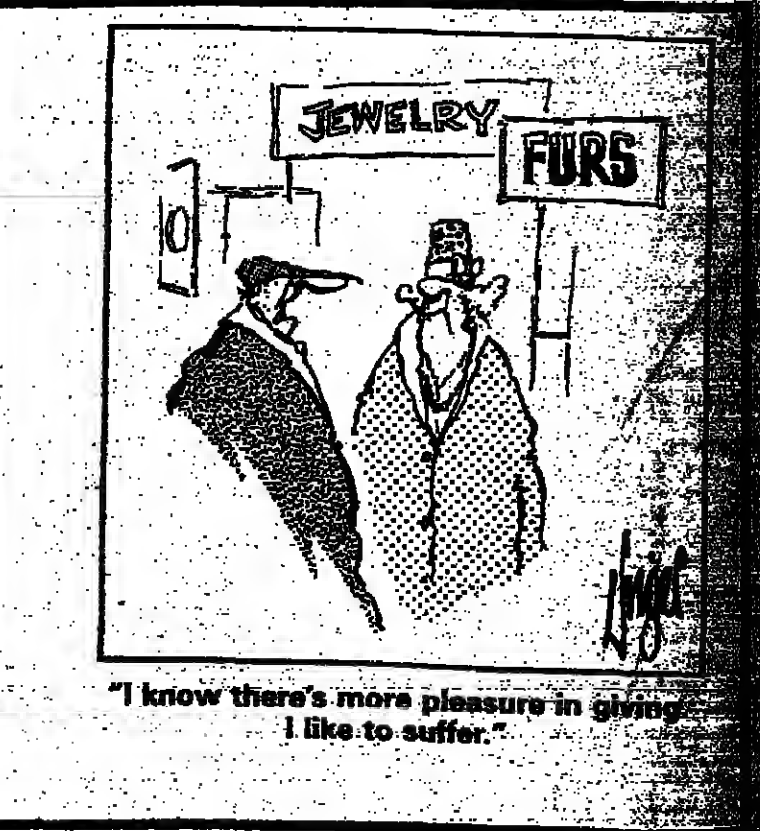
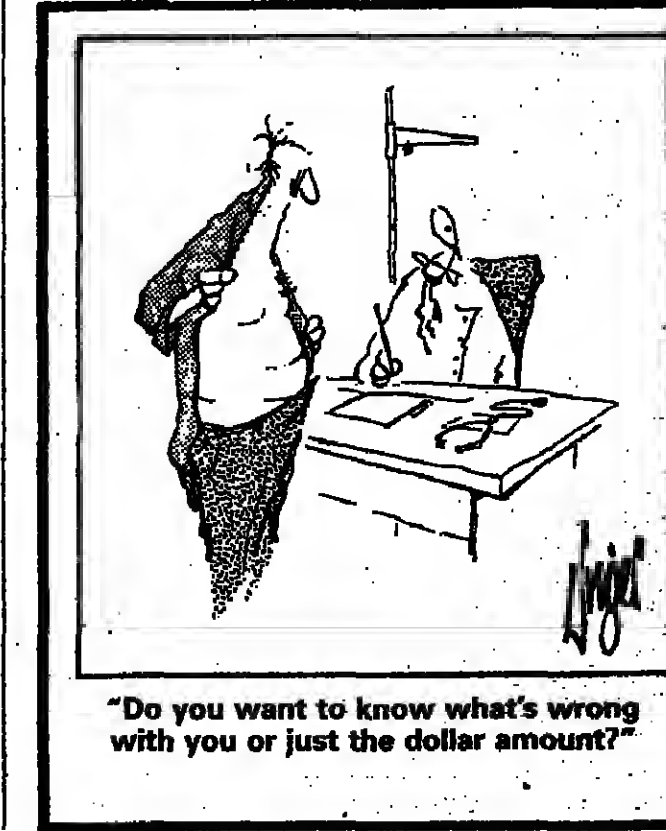
Sometimes you look at all four hands and wonder how declarer was able to make his contract, or how he happened to go down a trick or two in a contract that was "on ice." The reason should be obvious — at the table, only two hands are visible. See what a difference that can make on this hand from a national championship event.

The auction was routine. For those purists who feel that South



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries March 21 - April 20</p> <p>If you do not know do not try to bluff others into thinking that you do. You should do all you can out to allow your emotions to get out of hand up to repress them. Use just a little more commonsense. Be tolerant.</p>	<p>Cancer June 21 - July 20</p> <p>You will be tempted to eat more than you know is good for you. resist. You should not say one thing and then do another. Do all you can to avoid tension and to relax. Be hopeful.</p>	<p>Libra Sept 23 - Oct 23</p> <p>Something that has been causing difficulties will now become a great deal easier. However, there is still a lot to learn and you should not try to avoid doing so. Make sure you stick to limits of speed and of safety. Be tactful.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec 21 - Jan 19</p> <p>You will be able to learn from experience. Something you have been doing wrong will turn out to be due an easily remedied mistake. Indeed you will now know how you did not spot it before. Be reliable.</p>
<p>Taurus April 21 - May 20</p> <p>Not everything is as you would wish it to be. However, you should concentrate on those things that are favourable to you. Do not place too much reliance on luck. Be more tolerant.</p>	<p>Leo July 21 - Aug 21</p> <p>If you try to do everything by yourself you will not succeed. However you should not become too dependent on others either. Do not pretend to knowledge: you know you have not got. Be polite.</p>	<p>Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22</p> <p>You will be able to take the initiative but you should not act on impulse. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 39. A temptation to spend more than you know you can afford should be resisted. You would do well to show just a little more goodwill towards others.</p>	<p>Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 19</p> <p>A friend will appreciate hearing from you either by phone or by letter. The solution to a problem will lie elsewhere than you were looking for it, but you will now find it. Be more patient.</p>
<p>Gemini May 21 - June 20</p> <p>If you try to bluff your way out of a tricky situation you will only succeed in making matters worse. Instead of trying to deny your implication own up to it and apologize. Be generous.</p>	<p>Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22</p> <p>You should not allow your emotions to rule the roost but not should you altogether inhibit them. Your lucky numbers are 19 and 37. Make sure you do not have any money lying around. All kinds of exaggerations and distortions are to be avoided. Be fair.</p>	<p>Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22</p> <p>You have good reason to be disappointed but should not make a big issue of it. Do all you can to avoid straining your eyes. Be sure you do not leave any bills unpaid. Be sincere.</p>	<p>Pisces Feb 20 - March 20</p> <p>Beware of betraying a confidence but avoid being mislead. You will be able to do something to enhance your cultural life. Do expect others to do what you expect do in all cases. Be practical.</p>





Princess Erma with late King Farouk, sharing experiences

Erma Speaks Out: Part 4

An emotional sojourn in Farouk's land

Ahmed Al Jarallah with Erma sharing memories



Eager to recall Farouk's memories.



Everything in the restaurant was designed for Erma.



"When I wear the jewels Farouk gave me, I feel he is close to me," Erma



Playing Farouk's favourite song.

By Ahmed Al Jarallah
Arab Times Editor-in-Chief

I ALMOST ran out of patience while waiting for my evening appointment with Princess Erma. I was eager to recall King Farouk's memories. I used the interlude to go over my previous meetings — the long question and answer sessions — with Erma.

At last Erma came. She saw me gazing at her and guessing my question, replied: "Ahmad, the jewels I am wearing were presented by Farouk. When I wear them I feel he is with me. I'll never sell them, even if I am starving."

I felt that everything in the restaurant was perfect for the princess; designed and arranged for her. She set the ball rolling, asking me what tid-bits of information I needed on her relationship with Farouk. She also expressed her desire to visit my country saying: "I love to visit other countries; I don't really know why..."

Erma has visited the Middle East. She went to Egypt to present an opera at the Italian Cultural Centre in that country. "I felt I was familiar with Egypt's roads and suburbs. Because Farouk had talked incessantly about his country, I did not feel like a stranger."

During her stay in Cairo, she expressed the desire to visit Farouk's grave. She told me the Italian Ambassador took the necessary permission. "President Mubarak gave the permission within hours of requesting it; he even sent a presidential car to take me to the graveyard."

Erma recalled that she was overwhelmed with emotion. "I can't describe what my feelings were at that moment," she said. She was shattered by the experience. "I shed rivers of tears," she said. The figure of the woman in black in "Gone With the Wind" flashed through the mind. At that moment, Erma was an emotional wreck.

Farouk lies in a simple grave in sharp contrast to that of the former Shah of Iran. She said she was moved by the experience of visiting Farouk's grave.

During her Egyptian tour, she understood the people of that country. She remembers their warmth and love and simplicity. She said she could not help wondering if Cleopatra was as nice as contemporary Egyptians. After all, Cleopatra belonged to the same race.

Erma's Cairo trip was momentous. She gathered many memories she would cherish for years to come. But one memory lingers on... the time she heard the call for prayer.

Erma was fast asleep. It was 4 am. She was rudely awakened by a strange sound... she shrieked with fright. She feared a revolution had begun in Egypt. Her fears were put to rest by her concerned friends, who had rushed to her room; they explained that she had only heard the call to prayer. After that she could not sleep and watched the glorious sunrise in Cairo from her hotel room window.

She recalled: "Farouk had explained to me the significance of Fajr prayer; and had told me if he returned to Egypt, I would have to embrace Islam and pray each morning. That day was a memorable experience; my stay in Cairo is an unforgettable memory."

Erma had gone to Cairo as an opera singer. I was curious to find out how the Egyptians treated her: like an artist or the former mistress of a former king.

Erma said: "Many people did not know about my relationship with Farouk and treated me with deference and gave me the respect an opera singer deserves."

Erma was eager to see Farouk's palaces, which were heavily guarded. "While passing by a palace, I wanted to shout out I was Farouk's paramour and wanted to ask the guards to let me in so that I could see how he lived, especially in the Palace of Abdeen." She could not pick up the courage to do so... and the desire was not fulfilled.

(To be continued)



Erma: desire unfulfilled

Global warming

Bush under fire for environmental policies

By Jim Wolf

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): President George Bush is coming under heavy fire at home and abroad for his alleged failure to live up to his pledge to be "the environmental president."

Bush infuriated environmentalists in April by arguing that action against the threat of global warming should wait for more research.

Then he opposed the creation of 100 million dollar fund, proposed by European countries to help developing nations cut their use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are blamed for depleting the atmospheric ozone layer that filters the damaging rays of the sun.

At an international conference in Bergen, Norway, last week delegates attacked the United States for opposing what they called pivotal strategies on environmental protection.

Outside the meeting slogan-chanting demonstrators accused ministers of bowing to US pressure at the conference.

"Environmental deterioration has reached the point where we cannot wait for scientific evidence," Italian Environment Minister Giorgio Ruffolo said in Bergen. "If we should wait for absolute scientific certainty, we should probably be dead before that."

Ruffolo's statement was an implicit swipe at Bush, whose call for more research on global warming effectively delays more expensive measures to combat the problem.

"What we need are facts," Bush told the representatives of 17 nations, the European Economic Community and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development at a White House-sponsored conference last month.

"Environmental policies that ignore the economic factor, the human factor, are bound to fail," he said.

The decision to oppose the 100 million dollar fund for phasing out CFCs in developing countries was criticised as shortsighted by other industrial nations attending a UN-sponsored conference in Geneva as well as by members of Congress.

Bush has joined in a worldwide call for a sharp cut in the use of CFCs, which are used in refrigerants and solvents. But by refusing to contribute additional funds to help poor countries switch to substitutes, he has made real reductions difficult, critics charge.

A letter signed by 12 Democratic Senators said it

was "unconscionable" for the White House to reject a proposal calling for "minimal sums" to help developing countries seeking to cut use of a chemical that threatens the rest of the world.

Also criticising the White House decision were the European Economic Community and Japan.

"I think it's a penny-pinching blunder that endangers a consensus for a phaseout of ozone-depleting chemicals," said David Doniger of the US-based Natural Resources Defence Council.

As in past internal US government disputes over global warming initiatives, the CFC aid decision pitted environmental protection agency administrator William Reilly and top State Department officials against conservative advisers led by White House Chief of Staff John Sununu.

Sununu and Budget Director Richard Darman have contended that the economic costs of protecting the environment have been overlooked.

They also apparently fear the precedent of giving funds to international bodies that may dictate how countries, including the United States, respond to environmental problems.

The White House has been actively pursuing a wide range of domestic environmental initiatives, including a clean air law which it says would cut so-called "greenhouse" gases by 15 per cent by the year 2000.

Such gases, notably carbon dioxide emissions from cars and fossil fuels, threaten to blanket the atmosphere, trapping heat and raising temperatures worldwide. Some scientists have said this could ultimately turn farmland into deserts, melt polar icecaps and flood coastal areas.

The Bush administration has proposed to spend about \$1 billion, on global climate change research in the financial year beginning on October 1.

"We're outspending every other country in the world on this," said Stephen Hart, a White House spokesman.

Bush has also launched an initiative to plant one billion trees a year in the United States and his Energy Secretary, James Watkins, is putting together a national strategy that will emphasise use of renewable sources, conservation and energy efficiency. The target date for announcement of Watkins' plan is December.

"We're taking common sense steps right now," said Hart. "We're in the business of responsible governance and we're taking this problem of global change quite seriously."

'Sculptor of Smells' mixes perfumes for quaint French museum

A whiff of France, a smell of Ireland

By Charles Goldsmith

RIQUEWIHR, France, (UPI): A quick tour of Europe without the crowds, without the hassles? The nose knows the way.

Just use the old schnozz and take a good whiff in a quaint French museum to sample the scents of the 12 countries of the European Economic Community.

"Perfume of Europe," a smell-a-thoo exhibit at the Communications Museum an hour's drive from the Alsace capital of Strassbourg, is a sure bet to clear out the clogged stousses of even the most uptight tourist.

Billed as an "olfactory evocation" of

Europe's diversity, the exhibit features puppet theatre-like displays for each country. Stick your head inside a box (a wine crate for France) and squeeze a rubber squirtle bulb, then smell your way through the old world.

Visitors to the Ireland display, for example, sample the scent of Irish whiskey in a miniature pub setting, while the drinking song, *No, No, Never*, plays in the background.

The smells were mixed by an expert in biotechnology who the museum curator described as a "sculptor of smells." Stored in liquid form in a vial, the fragrance wafts through the display after being dispensed

from the squeezed bulb.

"We don't all have the same nose," says a sign in the museum. "What is imperceptible for some is insufferable for others. That's why we have installed a system of individual dosage."

Some of the chosen scents are pretty predictable: Capuccino coffee for Italy, a bull for Spain, expensive perfume for France and the Bouquet of Port wine for Portugal.

Other aromas are less obvious: gingerbread for Germany, smoked fish for Denmark and fresh cream for Holland.

Then there are some indigenous mixtures: for Greece, a concoction of olive oil,

oregano and garlic, while Belgium gets a combination of oil used to make *Frites* (the national snack) and beer national drink with 300 varieties, spice with a touch of tobacco.

"We felt this exhibit would be a way to get a feel for Europe," said Astrid Mull, "In French expression, *Je ne peux pas* means 'I cannot smell'."

The British display has a model of an orange-blossom tree, a musician and a list of *Pistols, Anarchy in the U.S.A.*

Picasso and Rembrandt links

By Galina Vromen

AMSTERDAM, (Reuters): At first glance, two artists could hardly seem further apart than Picasso and Rembrandt.

But an exhibition in Amsterdam shows how the 20th-century Spanish cubist was inspired by the 17th-century Dutch master and reinterpreted his works in dozens of sketches and paintings.

The exhibition, "Picasso-Rembrandt-Picasso," runs until June 10 at the Rembrandt House, a small museum in the Dutch artist's home which houses a permanent collection of his etchings.

It shows Pablo Picasso's fascination with Rembrandt's famous "Night Watch"

and his Biblical depictions of such scenes as Joseph fleeing from Potiphar's wife and Bathsheba bathing.

"While artists have always borrowed imagery from the history of art, Picasso's appropriation of the work of others is unprecedented in both method and scope," writes American art historian Janie Cohen whose research inspired the show.

Picasso sketched more variations of Rembrandt's work than of any other artist and began an intense study of the master

while recovering from major surgery in 1965 at the age of 84, she writes in the exhibition catalogue.

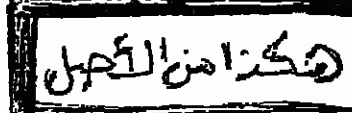
From then until his death in 1973, moustached, sword-wielding musketeers in 17th-century dress inspired by Rembrandt dominated Picasso's work, sometimes taking on the features of his favourite *commedia dell'arte* figures Harlequin and Pierrot.

In all there are about 60 known paintings and drawings by Picasso based on Rembrandt's work.

The exhibition displays these works by Picasso alongside reproductions of Rembrandt's original paintings, allowing visitors a rare view of how or genius viewed another across the centuries.

Picasso was never too far from Rembrandt to refrain from his version of the two eeters from "Night Watch," piously wearing a roller face bears traces of Picasso.

Picasso turns a happy *Portrait of his wife Saskia* into a sketch, preserving Rembrandt's distinctive hat and moustache but deriding Saskia.



VARIETY

Happiness is a beefburger that tastes like wedding cake

By Frances Hubbard

THE day the Duke and Duchess of York celebrated their marriage four years ago with champagne and slices of rich pink and ivory wedding cake was the proudest of David MacCrae's life.

He had devoted 40 hours to designing and icing the sumptuous six-tier cake for the royal newlyweds... and another four hours to arranging his creation, decorated with sugar roses and a cascade of silk flowers, in the Blue Room at Buckingham Palace.

David, a 25-year-old Liverpoolian with a cheeky grin and a talent for high-rise confections, told me: "I made the cake specially to go with the bride. Fergie struck me as being very pretty and frothy, so I wanted to complement her looks with a gorgeous, frivolous wedding present."

The Duke and Duchess loved David's edible gift, as his testimonial from Buckingham Palace proves. The letter, written on crested paper, says: "We would like to express our delight with the wonderful cake you presented to us. It was admired by the entire royal family." It is signed by a palace spokesman.

David first tempted royal appetites when he sent Andrew and Fergie an engagement cake. After that, he was the natural choice to supply the centrepiece for the couple's wedding reception.

But David, who runs his own shop — David's Amazing Cakes in Crosby, Liverpool, also caters for mere commoners. He can design cakes for any occasion, in any shape, size or colour.

One of his favourites was for a Hall-oween wedding and featured green sugar zombies bursting through black icing. And when he married his wife Karen seven months ago, he opted for something equally bizarre: a triple-decker sponged cake to look like a giant beefburger.

David and 25-year-old Karen tied the knot at a local registry office, then held the reception at a Wimpy bar where the guests tucked into cheeseburgers and pieces of the cake.

"Karen and I are both addicted to junk food, and we wanted a wedding to remember. At a Wimpy bar seemed the ideal choice, for both reasons," said David. "It wasn't exactly posh — more cheap and cheerful — but it was brilliant fun."

For those who would like to splash out a little more for their Big Day, David has the perfect status symbol. His most expensive cake is a stunning all-white creation topped with a revolving mirror-ball, studded with real diamonds and set off by a min-



David's sculpture of Michael Jackson has proved very popular with his customers.



David with wife Karen. They celebrated their wedding at a Wimpy bar.

Pictures Nancy Alex Knott

ature fountain in the bottom tier. It costs £10,000 and the diamonds can be removed before it is served.

Couples with slightly smaller bank balances could opt for David's 6ft pillar of pale yellow sugar roses and trailing ivy (cost £5,000) — or a bright red pagoda design complete with bridge and fancy lattice work.

"It's a bit of fun really," David told me.

"I know those cakes are out of most people's price range, but every now and then we get enquiries for a show-stopper of a cake and we're happy to oblige! Don't worry, the rest of our stuff looks traditional and comes at traditional prices."

David now takes more than 1,000 orders a year for his outrageous and beautiful cakes but, when he began his business from

a back bedroom five years ago, he sold a grand total of eight in his first year of trading.

"The trouble was that I started out with weird and wonderful designs which I loved making but which people weren't so sure about eating. I love big, bold shapes and colours but they aren't ideal for everyone," David admitted.

"Things like my cauliflower-shaped cake didn't seem to go down too well, I'm afraid. Now I save the overly items for people who really want something different — and demand for out-of-the-ordinary designs is going up all the time."

The window displays of David's luxurious shop are packed with polystyrene and sugar models of his most memorable creations. It is easy to see the attraction of his football cake for a soccer-mad fan, or his Postman Pat for a child's birthday — but who on earth would want his massive sugar sculpture of Freddie from Nightmare on Elm Street?

It took David 200 hours to mould Freddie out of red and black royal icing. The terrifying horror-film character rises from gooey slime embedded with screaming skulls and he certainly does not look good enough to eat.

Laughing, David said: "He's in the window to make people take a second look as they go past. Kids love him — it's their parents who aren't too keen. I really made Freddie to test my own skill and I'd be quite surprised if I got an order for an edible version."

David's sculptures of Joan Collins and Michael Jackson have proved more popular with his customers and his Jason Donovan cake is in great demand from teenage girls.

Adult males seem to prefer his "boob cake," which shows a skimpy lace bra filled to overflowing with a chest David claims is modelled on his wife Karen.

Word of David's ingenuity with sugar icing has travelled far and he receives orders from all over Britain.

A dozen full-time staff help him to cope with the demand for ornate wedding cakes and novelties. With the delicious smell of butter icing lingering in the air, they shape delicate rose petals or parts for the latest Michael Jackson in the big, airy workrooms above David's shop.

He won an Enterprise Training Award in 1989 for the high standard of their work but David modestly refuses to take the credit. "We pick staff who have a real enthusiasm for the job and who have the imagination to be creative," he said.



David's beefburger cake.

Scientists keep volcano watch

VANCOUVER, Washington, (UPI) — The deadly eruption of Mount St Helens in southwest Washington 10 years ago has prompted scientists to intensify their watch of other majestic volcanoes that dot the western United States and to develop an early warning system.

If Mount Rainier near Seattle or Mount Hood east of Portland, Ore., were to suddenly wake up, seismologists believe they would be able to detect the first stirrings and give some warning.

"Our capabilities for monitoring volcanoes have improved since St Helens' eruption," said Steve Malone of the University of Washington, which works with the US geological survey in track activity.

"We have more and better equipment in place and we are better at interpreting the signals, particularly for the northern cascades," Malone said. "We also have a good feel for the California volcanoes."

"I think we could issue a warning on the order of weeks or maybe months," Malone said.

St Helens, the most active of the volcanoes on the American West Coast, came to life in the spring of 1980 after lying dormant for 153 years. For two months, the mountain shook with earthquakes and eruptions that opened a crater on its snow-capped peak.

Then, on May 18, 1980, an earthquake triggered a gigantic sideways eruption that blew away the top 1,300 feet (400 m) of the 9,677-foot (2,950-m) mountain. The blast flattened 230 square miles (595 sq km) of forest and killed 57 people.

Geologists swarmed to southwest Washington to study the spectacular event.

The USGS established the David Johnston Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, named for a USGS scientist killed in the blast. More than 60 scientists now work at the observatory, which has become the nation's largest centre for volcanic study.

The knowledge gained at St Helens is applicable elsewhere and the observatory has a team of scientists on standby to haul their tilt meters and seismographs anywhere in the world. One team is currently in the South Pacific and others helped monitor eruptions in Colombia.

They also maintain an extensive network of seismographs throughout the cascades, with equipment constantly feeling the pulse of St Helens, Rainier and Baker in Washington, and Hood, Jefferson and the Three Sisters in Oregon. Another USGS net-

work keeps track of Mount Shasta and Lassen Peak in California.

The scientists have also developed extensive maps of St Helens and other peaks, tracing past volcanic activity and possible mudflow routes for future eruptions.

"As eruptions go, the one at Mount St Helens was a fairly small one," said Ed Wolfe, scientific director of the observatory. "It is not greatly unlike eruptions that have occurred many times at other volcanoes."

Lateral explosions are somewhat unusual, but have occurred before. Wolfe said the most notable example is Mount Shasta in northern California, which erupted about 300,000 years ago.

"Only it was about 15 times as large as the St Helens eruption," he said.

Wolfe said other cascade volcanoes present a danger because much of the year they are covered with ice and snow that can melt rapidly during an eruption, forming huge mudflows. He noted that mudflows killed 22,000 people when the Nevado Del Ruiz Volcano erupted in Colombia in 1985.

"That's a dangerous process that could be repeated in the cascades," he said. "Rainier and Hood are of some concern because they are close to population centres."

Malone noted there is evidence that a "huge chunk of Mount Rainier tore down the white river drainage 5,500 years ago, generating a massive mudflow that went all the way to Commencement Bay (near Tacoma)."

"A lot of towns are now built on that mudflow," he said.

"Cascade volcanoes have been erupting about twice a century," said Wolfe.

"We have a way to put a date and time on the next eruption of Mount Hood... but we have come to understand the activity under St Helens and with that understanding comes the ability to issue precautionary warnings," he said.

Scientists are constantly monitoring swarms of small earthquakes under St Helens. Their equipment is so good they can tell the difference between Magma Movement and the explosion of hot gases in the cooling rocks, according to Malone.

St Helens hasn't experienced an eruption in which lava flowed since 1886, but the monitors have recorded several small gas explosions on the dome, including one in January this year that sent ash drifting over eastern Washington.

Soviets take comradely look at America

By Jacqueline Frank

WASHINGTON, (Reuters) — From the beaches of Florida to the Halls of Congress, thousands of Soviet officials, scholars, athletes and ordinary citizens are taking advantage of glasnost to enjoy unprecedented visits to the United States.

Around the corner from the White House some days ago, five social welfare officials from Kiev, Leningrad and other Soviet cities sampled their first fast-food cheeseburgers with side orders of french fries, ice cream and coffee.

"I like it," said Igor Shchavalev of the Soviet State Committee for Labour and Social Affairs as he munched away during a stop between visits to US labour and welfare officials and attending a conference on ageing.

The first Miss USSR, Yulia Sukhanova, was also on an American tour in early May including a celebrity appearance at the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival.

"They are coming in droves. There's been enormous pent-up desire by Soviets to travel and see the world," said Greg Guroff co-ordinator for a US information agency programme known as "The President's US-Soviet Exchange Initiative."

One top Pentagon official told Reuters that so many Soviet generals were coming to call on him that he had stopped seeing many of them.

The increase coincides with the warming of US-Soviet relations and an easing of travel restrictions that have accompanied the rise of Mikhail Gorbachev and his policy of glasnost, or greater openness in Soviet society.

Gorbachev and former US president Ronald Reagan got things moving in 1985, at the first of a series of summits, by agreeing to boost scientific and government exchanges.

"There has been a steady trend upward since Gorbachev came in," said Daniel Abele of the Woodrow Wilson Centre's Kennan Institute, which sponsors scholarly exchanges.

This year more than 100,000 visas are expected to be issued to Soviet citizens, many coming on scholarly or government exchange programmes but more and more arriving as the guests of private organisations and citizens.

That compares with 59,673 visas issued to Soviet visitors in 1989 and 9,356 in 1986.

Guroff said it is now easier for a Soviet citizen to get permission from Moscow and Washington to visit the United States than it is to get a seat on an aircraft making the connection. Soviet Aeroflot flights are booked far in advance and Soviet citizens lack Western currency needed to book reservations on Western airlines.

The wide variety of recent visitors included a group of 30 "Mothers for Daycare and against nuclear war," visiting New York; another 30 women who met Coretta Scott King, widow of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, to discuss women's rights; a group from Soviet Georgia entertained by the US state of Georgia; and some Soviet judges studying the US judicial system with Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

In Maryland Soviet harness-racing driver Vitaly Tanishin raced recently at Rosecroft Raceway on his second US tour. This time he brought four other Soviet horsemen with him.

World-class volleyballers Raimond Viide, who played on the Soviet silver medal team at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, and Valts Mickelson, a member of the Soviet national team, will spend the sum-

mer on a professional beach-volleyball tour from Florida to Maryland.

Politics are not forgotten. Sergei Stankovich, vice-mayor of Moscow and member of the Soviet legislature, warned the United States in testimony before a House of Representatives committee against interfering in Moscow's row with Lithuania over the republic's declaration of independence.

Economics, and a shift to capitalist-style markets in grains, lumber and steel, were on the mind of Alexander Ivachchenko, of the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry when he met officials of US commodity exchanges.

"We had commodity exchanges in the 1920s before the new economic policy was started and we are now trying to revive them," Ivachchenko told Reuters.

There has also been controversy. Late last month a row broke out over the visit of eight Russian-nationalist writers and journalists, some of whom have been associated with articles publicising apparent anti-Semitic sentiments.

US Jewish groups and others protested at the US sponsored tour and one prospective host group cancelled its invitation.

Perils of living in the shadow of superstars

Tragedies in Hollywood's goldfish bowl

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI) — Christian Dev Brando, arrested on suspicion of killing his sister's boyfriend, was only the latest tragedy among children raised in Hollywood's goldfish bowl.

Children of movie and TV superstars too often have found their lives blighted. They live in the shadows of the glare of publicity and adoration accorded their mothers or fathers or both. Seldom are they accepted for themselves.

Psychiatrists can go on for hours about the perils of children developing in those shadows. Like plants denied sunshine, they too frequently wilt or somehow become stunted.

They grow up either over-protected and sheltered from parental celebrity or are expected to participate in the hoopla of stardom. In the latter case they mistakenly assume they, too, deserve the plaudits.

Christian Brando, 32, was arrested May 17 for a homicide that took place in his father's hilltop home overlooking Beverly Hills. But Marlon Brando has been a conscientious and loving father. He worked hard to help Christian keep a low profile despite his own towering stature.

And, he isn't alone in having one of his children involved in homicide investigation.

Thirty-two years ago the world was stunned to learn of Cheryl Crane, Lana Turner's 14-year-old daughter, stabbing to death her mother's lover, underworld figure Johnny Stompanato. Lurid details of the butcher-knife death in glamour girl Turner's Beverly Hills home came to light at the trial.

The verdict on Cheryl was "justifiable



Christian Brando (right) confers with his attorney before his arraignment on murder charges in the death of Dag Drollet, a guest on his father's estate.

homicide."

Although Christian Brando has avoided undue publicity in the past decade or so, he spent some of his formative years as the central figure in divorce and custody hearings in the 1960s as his father's ex-wife, Anna Kashfi, and the actor fought over him. It was no life for a kid.

All the same, few Hollywood offspring find themselves involved with violent death. But the toll in terms of alcoholism, drugs and suicides is appalling.

Ryan O'Neal's son Griffin, Carol Burnett's daughter Carrie Hamilton.

There are many, many others to be sure. The cases of Bette Davis' daughter B.D. and Joan Crawford's daughter Christina — both of whom wrote shocking books about their relationships with their mothers — exemplify the horrors young people undergo while being dragged along in the last lane with their famed parents.

Sometimes Hollywood kids are neglected emotionally while being spoiled with money, possessions and public exposure. Others are hidden, as if their parents were ashamed of them.

Because the divorce rate in Hollywood is higher than in most communities, rarely is the celebrity's child reared in a home with both natural parents present.

There are, of course, more success stories among Hollywood offspring than otherwise. And some who lead normal, unpublicised lives.

Often when the children of stars follow their parents as actors, the results are startlingly successful.

Some examples: Kirk Douglas and his son Michael; Martin Sheen and his boys Charlie Sheen and Emilio Estevez; Bruce Dern's daughter Laura; Debbie Reynolds' daughter Carrie Fisher; Donald Sutherland's son Kiefer and Peter Fonda's daughter Bridget.

Today's stars appear to be handling the problems inherent in rearing children in the stark light of celebrity better than previous generations. They seem to be more aware of the needs of their offspring.

While drugs and easy money are all around, the stars seem more conscientious about not spoiling their youngsters.



FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

New diet is not just a fishy tale

QUESTION: My wife is on a health kick and is now serving a lot more fish than we are used to eating. I wouldn't mind getting used to this new diet if I was sure that it was doing me some good. Do you feel that all the health claims about fish are sufficiently reliable to make this change?

ANSWER: I doubt that your wife is alone in changing the cuisine that is being served at the table in most American homes. For the idea that new dietary habits can reduce the numbers of many of the leading causes of death is now pretty well accepted by various authorities.

The belief is that high levels of cholesterol and saturated fat lead to heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke, and that reducing the amount of fats that contain large quantities of these substances can help to protect us. The American Heart Association and the National Cholesterol Education programme recommend a diet containing less than 30 per cent fat calories per day, and no more than 300 milligrams of cholesterol.

The fats or oils in fish differ from those found in animal products and include a highly polyunsaturated omega-3 fatty acid, which is thought to be the element in the diet of the Eskimos of Greenland and seems to protect them from heart disease and stroke. Cold water fish are particularly high in this fatty acid, so choose from halibut, salmon, snapper and rainbow trout for your source.

Natural sources are preferable to capsules, which don't contain a wide variety of the vitamins and minerals found in seafood that are so important to a healthy diet. The preparation of seafood is also important. If you are to profit from your new food choice, fish are best served boiled, broiled, baked, poached, steamed or grilled, but frying in high saturated fats is certainly a no-no. Choose vegetable oils for food preparation when necessary, using oils such as safflower, sunflower, olive or corn.

Eating a fish dish or two during the week as a substitute for meat will help cut back on the saturated

animal fats they contain, but still leave room for a lean, well-trimmed steak or slice of beef in your week's menu.

QUESTION: Although my yearly allergies are very annoying, I just can't bring myself to undergo those tests that involve all those needles being stuck into you. Are there any other tests that can help discover the cause of my problems, and perhaps lead to some treatments that can help?

ANSWER: You can't escape getting stuck entirely, but one way of getting tested is more comfortable than another. The many injections or skin scratches used in traditional allergy testing can be replaced by one stick to draw a blood sample. One blood sample is all that is needed for RAST (radioallergen sorbent test) to measure the body's response to allergens. RAST is a test conducted outside the body, or "in vitro" (it comes from the words for "glass" because of the methods that used test tubes for investigations and experiments).

The traditional method of allergy testing involves injecting the skin, using a skin scratch technique, usually on the back, using many different allergens, and watching the body's reaction to each of them. This method, because it takes place in the body, is known as "in vivo" testing.

RAST is more expensive than the customary scratch testing, but it is also more convenient, less time-consuming, and can tell us more precisely if a certain allergen is the cause of your allergy problem. You are lucky, however, since there have been recent developments in medications that are quite effective in controlling some of the annoying symptoms of allergies and may bring you the relief you are seeking.

Dr Allan Bruckheim welcomes questions from readers. Although he cannot respond to each one individually, he will answer those of general interest in his column. Write to Dr Bruckheim in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 119, Orlando, Fla. 32802-0119.

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SPORTS

Italian clubs complete unique treble

Rijkaard helps Milan win European Cup



Rijkaard celebrates the only goal of the match. (Reuters wirephoto)



Gullit (left) and Milan president Berlusconi lift the Cup. (Reuters wirephoto)

VIENNA, May 25 (Reuters): Frank Rijkaard, the least publicised of AC Milan's three Dutch stars, scored the only goal of the match to carry the Italian soccer club to an emotional victory over Benfica in the European Cup final on Wednesday.

Midfielder Rijkaard raced on to a brilliant through pass from his compatriot Marco van Basten in the 68th minute and calmly slipped the ball past the advancing Portuguese goalkeeper Silvino.

The victory, widely celebrated by the 30,000 Milan fans in the 57,500 crowd, complete a unique and remarkable triumph for Italian clubs in Europe this season after Sampdoria captured the Cup Winners' Cup and Juventus took the UEFA Cup.

It was a joyful night for Milan, the first team to retain the European Cup since Nottingham Forest in 1980, but it was less happy for the club's other Dutchman Ruud Gullit.

The gamble on playing Gullit, just back from 11 months out of the game and from three knee operations, could not be said to have paid off. The striker was woefully out of touch and clearly lacking in his usual zest and pace.

Milan's victory may have been much less impressive than last year's stylish 4-0 drubbing of Steaua Bucharest but it was a welcome relief to a season in which they had looked in danger of finishing empty-handed after losing the Italian League and Cup final last month.

Benfica, who have now lost

five finals since last winning the European Cup in 1962, proved much tougher opposition than expected and even had the temerity to enjoy much the better of the first half.

But Milan asserted their superiority in the second in an exciting game played in a sporting spirit and without any hint of crowd trouble.

Benfica may feel aggrieved at losing again to Milan, who beat them 2-1 in the 1963 European Cup final at Wembley when Cesare Maldini, father of current Milan left-back Paolo Maldini, received a winners medal.

The Portuguese side started brightly against an uninspired Milan who could think of little better than to spray high balls down the centre for tall Brazilian defenders Ricardo and Aldair to deal with at their leisure.

Prompted by industrious midfielder Valdo, the third Benfica member of the Brazilian World Cup squad, they began to take a firm grip on the game and Milan looked in serious danger as they pressed forward.

Hernani had his best chance in the 32nd minute when Swedish midfielder Jonas Thern sprang the offside trap to send him through but Alessandro Costacurta rushed back to turn his shot for a corner.

By contrast, the only serious threat posed to Silvino came from Van Basten, who turned in the box at a speed of which only he is capable, before firing a hard shot which the keeper had to dive to hold.

Milan trainer Arrigo Sacchi obviously had serious things to say at the break because his team came out with a new purpose in the second half.

They should have taken the lead in the 49th minute when Gullit squandered an easy chance after Van Basten put him clear.

Gullit, the 1987 European Footballer of the Year, is an exception to many rules but not to the one which says all players need match practice.

Just two brief appearances in the Italian League was plainly not enough preparation for such an important game and there must be doubts as to how effective he will be for the Netherlands in next month's World Cup finals.

But Dutch national trainer Leo Beenhakker need not be dismayed about his other Milan men. Van Basten and Rijkaard are clearly in the mood for more success in Italy.

Sacchi said afterwards Benfica had made his team suffer in the first half. "It was quite worrying. It was difficult to get back on top but the team did it thanks to their strength of will."

"We did it through our resolution, our technique and our intelligence. It was a magnificent performance."

He said Milan had badly missed midfielder Robert Donadoni who was suspended.

Benfica were also lacking a key player through suspension in captain and fullback Veloso.



Benfica's Vitor Ararijo Panaira jumps over Van Basten. (Reuters wirephoto)

Robson to quit as England manager



Robson (left) with Kelly at the press conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

LONDON, May 25 (Reuters): Bobby Robson will quit as England manager after the World Cup finals to take a lucrative job with Dutch club PSV Eindhoven.

English Football Association (FA) chief executive Graham Kelly told a press conference yesterday: "The FA have agreed to release Mr Robson from his contract as manager of the England team to order that he can take the job with PSV Eindhoven as manager after the World Cup."

Robson, boss of the national side for the last eight years, has one year of his England contract to run.

The press conference was called after some popular newspapers reported yesterday that Robson had offered to quit before the World Cup because of a book about to be published containing allegations about his private life.

Robson said: "I have never ever offered my resignation to the FA. It's appalling rubbish and there's no truth in it."

"I received an offer from abroad and openly and honestly went to see FA chairman Bert McClellan. He said to me that it was unlikely that my contract would be extended... and I accept that."

"I didn't think there was a job for me and he gave me full permission to speak to PSV. But resign — why should I do that on the eve of going out with players to try to win the World Cup?"

The England manager insisted that the book containing allegations about his private life had not influenced his decision to quit. "I am not going to resign on that," he said.

Kelly told the press conference that "there was no truth whatsoever to all the rubbish" in some publications yesterday.

"When Mr Robson finishes his employment with the FA he will go with our best wishes for his future and with thanks from everybody, from the chairman to all the members of the council for all the work he has done for the game," Kelly said.

"We wanted to clear the situation as soon as we could to avoid any speculation which would detract from his efforts to succeed in the World Cup."

Gullit wins battle to be fit for the Cup

AMSTERDAM, May 25 (Reuters): Ruud Gullit, an inspirational figure to the Netherlands' 1988 European Championship winning team, has won his battle to be fit for the World Cup soccer finals.

Gullit, who has missed much of this current season after three knee operations, was named yesterday in the Dutch squad of 22 for the finals starting in Italy next month.

The dreadlocked Gullit came through the most searching test of his fitness on Wednesday when he helped his Italian club AC Milan retain the European Cup with a 1-0 victory over Portugal's Benfica.

Gullit's touch and pace in the final were missing after so little competitive soccer in the past year, but he could not be faulted for effort as he tirelessly roamed the pitch.

Squad

Goalkeepers: Hans van Breukelen (PSV Eindhoven), Joop Hiele (Feyenoord), Stanley Menzo (Ajax)

Defenders: Danny Blind (Ajax), Berry van Aerle (PSV), Graeme Rutjes (KV Mechelen), Adrie van Tiggelen (Anderlecht), Ronald Koeman (Barcelona), Henk Fraser (Roda JC)

Midfielders: Jan Wouters, Richard Witsege, Aron Winter, John van 't Schip (all Ajax), Gerald Vancoberg (PSV), Erwin Koeman (KV Mechelen), Frank Rijkaard (AC Milan)

Forwards: Hans Gillhaus (Aberdeen), Wim Keift (PSV), Marco van Basten, Ruud Gullit (both AC Milan), Bryan Roy (Ajax), John van Loen (Roda JC)

Edmonton capture Stanley Cup

BOSTON, Massachusetts, May 25 (Reuters): The Edmonton Oilers defeated the Boston Bruins 4-1 yesterday to win their fifth National Hockey League Stanley Cup championship in seven years.

Glenn Anderson and Craig Simpson had a goal and an assist each and Bill Ranford made 29 saves for the Oilers, who won the best-of-seven-game finals 4-1.

After a scoreless first period, Anderson scored the first goal of the game at one minute, 17 seconds of the second period. Anderson skated the length of the rink, split the Boston defence, faked a goalkeeper, Andy Moog, and fired in a seven-foot, back-handed shot.

At 9:31 of the period, Anderson dropped off a backhanded pass in front of goal to Craig Simpson who put the Oilers up 2-0.

Simpson, who had 16 goals in the playoffs, and Edmonton captain Mark Messier assisted on Edmonton's third goal by Steve Smith at 6:09 of the third period. Smith fired a 55-footer past Moog high on his glove side. Joe Murphy made it 4-0 Edmonton at 14:53, when he slapped home his own rebound.

The Bruins' Lyndon Byers ruined Edmonton goalkeeper Bill Ranford's for a shutout with just 3:30 remaining when he took a pass out and beat Ranford.

Ranford, who made 29 saves on Friday, was named the playoffs Most Valuable Player.

Edmonton won 16 games and lost six post season games on the way to the Stanley Cup.



Oilers' Messier (centre), Kevin Lowe (left) and Ian Kerr hold up the Stanley Cup. (Reuters wirephoto)



Edmonton Oilers' coach John Muckler (right) is doused with champagne. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Cup success could delay English clubs' return

VIENNA, May 25. (Reuters) Success for England's national team in the World Cup finals in Italy next month could delay English clubs' return to European competition next season, European Football Union (Uefa) officials said yesterday.

New Uefa president Lennart Johansson told reporters after a Uefa executive committee meeting that the timetable for re-admitting English clubs was tight and the further England go in the World Cup, the

more difficult it would be.

"The door is still open for the return of English clubs," he said. "We are prepared to take the decision when we hear from the British government. But there is a problem because the draw for next season's competitions is on July 11, only three days after the World Cup final."

English clubs have been banned from Europe since Liverpool fans rioted at the Heysel Stadium, Brussels before the 1985

European Cup final against Juventus, resulting in the death of 39 fans, most of them Italian.

Johansson said that, even if English clubs did get back next season, Liverpool's additional three-year ban would stay in force and there was no chance of them being in the draw.

Liverpool recently won the English League title and would have been

England's entry in the European Cup.

Johansson, who stated that he favoured the return of all banned clubs, said everything depended on how quickly British Sports Minister Culin Moyynihan gave Uefa a written reply to its request for government support for re-admission.

Moyynihan has said the British government would make its response in the light of English fans' behaviour at the World Cup finals in Italy which start on June 8.

Love of sport keeps Andretti on driving track

NEW YORK, May 25. (Reuters) Mario Andretti says there is one simple reason why he is risking his life at the age of 50 driving a racing car — he still loves the sport.

"I enjoy racing, we all enjoy racing and no other motivation really makes sense," said the former Formula One world champion and Indianapolis 500 winner.

"That motivation is still there, and until it goes away then you will have me around."

Starting from the second row on Sunday in his 26th Indy 500 appearance, Andretti will line up behind another veteran, last year's winner Emerson Fittipaldi, fastest in practice.

Fittipaldi, an ex-world champion like Andretti, agreed that money and speed were not the only motivating factors.

"The driving force behind my racing is the simple love of the sport," said 43-year-old Fittipaldi, who has campaigned for 19 seasons in Indy and Formula One cars and last year claimed his first CART-Indy crown with five wins.

"When I look back on all my years of racing I realise that I never enjoyed racing more in my life. Never. I raced and I raced hard, but now I'm like a little kid going to the track," the Brazilian said.

Fittipaldi and American Andretti share the unique distinction of being the only drivers to win the overall championships in both Formula One and Indy cars.

Fittipaldi took the Grand Prix crown in 1972 and 1974 while Andretti won six races in his victorious 1978 campaign.

Another driver who has competed in both forms of motor racing is Teo Fahl of Italy. He first appeared on the Formula One circuit in 1982 but never won.

"It is a dangerous sport and unless you enjoy it very much, you shouldn't do it," said 35-year-old Fahl. "There shouldn't be any other reason (for doing it) besides enjoying racing."



Teo Fahl is at mechanics work on his car. (Reuters wirephoto)



Fittipaldi (left) jokes with Al Unser Jr before final practice yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Andretti and Fittipaldi are not the oldest drivers competing at Indianapolis. That distinction goes to 55-year-old A.J. Foyt, who is starting the race for the 33rd time. He won Indy four times between 1961 and 1977 and set the eighth best qualifying time this year.

The race has become a family affair for some of the regulars. Andretti's son Michael is alongside him on the second row, while his nephew John set the 10th fastest time.

Another regular, Al Unser, watched his son, Al Jr, gain a spot on the third row after a mistake in the qualifying runs cost him a chance of pole position.

Skateboard helps Romario recover

GUBBIO, Italy, May 25. (Reuters) PSV Eindhoven striker Romario, who broke his right leg in March, is using a skateboard to regain fitness in time for Brazil's World Cup campaign.

Team doctors at Brazil's training camp suggested a skateboard might be ideal for the stocky forward to regain suppleness in his injured leg.

The idea seems to be a success. Romario joined his team mates

sooner than expected in a practice game against Third Division Gubbio yesterday.

Romario came on in the second half and contributed a hat-trick in Brazil's 4-1 victory.

"I'm satisfied with this first test," said Romario, who despite breaking his leg two months before the end of the Dutch League season, finished as top scorer with 23 goals.

"But my problem is not only

one of physical condition," he said. "I must also convince myself psychologically that I'm 100 per cent healed."

"Only that way will I be really useful to Brazil."

A more decisive run out for Romario will be Brazil's friendly against an Umbria selection at Terni on Monday.

Brazil face Scotland, Sweden and Costa Rica in Group C in the qualifying runs cost him a chance of pole position.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Italy favourite

FRANKFURT, West Germany, May 25. (AP) West German soccer manager Franz Beckenbauer predicted yesterday that host nation Italy will be the team to beat at next month's World Cup. "We can beat any other team, perhaps with the exception of Italy," Beckenbauer said. "Italy is the great favourite, but it will have to prove itself."

Sekularac quits

YUGOSLAVIA, May 25. (Reuters) Yugoslav champion Red Star Belgrade's coach Dragoslav Sekularac has resigned saying he has lost motivation after being suspended for his behaviour at a Uefa Cup tie last December.

Soccer coach

BRUSSELS, May 25. (Reuters) Walter Meets, sacked as Belgium's soccer coach in February, is to sign for First Division St Truiden tomorrow, a club spokesman said yesterday.

Boban suspended

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, May 25. (Reuters) Dinamo Zagreb soccer captain Zvonimir Boban was suspended for nine months yesterday for kicking a policeman during a violent crowd disturbance.

America's Cup

SAN DIEGO, May 25. (UPI) The 1992 America's Cup races could pump as much as \$911 million into San Diego's economy, a study by experts at the University of San Diego predicted yesterday.

Top boxer

MEXICO CITY, May 25. (Reuters) American Pernell Whitaker has been named World Boxing Council (WBC) Boxer of the Month for May after successfully defending his lightweight title against Ghana's Azumah Nelson in Las Vegas last Saturday.

Super Bowl

IRVING, Texas, May 25. (AP) Atlanta was awarded the 1994 Super Bowl by National Football League owners on Wednesday. Atlanta plans to have a new domed stadium built by that time. It will be the first Super Bowl for the city.

Ryder Cup

WENTWORTH, England, May 25. (Reuters) The 1991 Ryder Cup golf match between Europe and the United States will be held at the Belfry in England for the third time, it was announced yesterday.

Banned player

PERPIGNAN, France, May 25. (Reuters) France's banned rugby union international Alain Carminat said on Wednesday he had signed a contract with French Rugby League club 13 Catalan in Perpignan.

Kendall-Carpenter dies

LONDON, May 25. (Reuters) John Kendall-Carpenter, former England captain and chairman of the committee organising next year's rugby union World Cup, died suddenly yesterday. He was 64.

Austrian players

VIENNA, May 25. (UPI) Austrian soccer players will be able to enjoy sex during the World Cup soccer finals, coach Josef Hickersberger was quoted as saying Wednesday. "There is a very natural relationship to sex," Hickersberger told the Kurier, a Vienna newspaper. "I certainly wouldn't even think about disallowing such a natural thing," he said.

Ghana forward

BEERSCHOT, Belgium, May 25. (UPI) Ghana international forward Prince Pooley signed a three-year contract with Beerschot of the Belgian First Division, the club said Wednesday.

Half-marathon

BRUSSELS, May 25. (UPI) Forty people aged 15 to 69 with a new heart will be among the thousands running in the 20km Brussels half-marathon Sunday, a self-help group said Wednesday.

Czech police

PRAGUE, May 25. (UPI) The Czechoslovak secret police, two years after the communist takeover in 1948, fabricated a political trial which sent 11 members of the national ice hockey squad to prison, the leading sports weekly Stadion said Wednesday.

Slave traders

VIENNA, May 25. (UPI) An Austrian labour official accused the Austrian Football Federation Wednesday of slave-trading tactics in transferring players abroad. "The federation is virtually an enormous slave trader," said Peter Pilz, Austria's Wacker striker Gerhard Rodas, who recently signed a \$3.5 million three-year contract with Spanish side Atletico Madrid, was threatened with suspension Sunday after he filed a law suit against Austria for trying to withhold his transfer.

Reds trounce Expos

Phillies tame Braves



An enraged Red's manager, Lou Piniella, chases down the plate umpire after he was tossed from the game after disputing a call. (Reuters wirephoto)

MONTREAL, May 25. (AP) Ron Robinson scattered four hits over six shutout innings and Billy Hatcher paced a 13-hit Cincinnati attack with three singles and a double as the Reds beat the Expos 7-1 in a National League baseball game yesterday.

Robinson (2-1) struck out two and walked two while Eric Davis, Todd Benzinger and Ron Oester each had two RBIs. The Reds snapped Montreal's four-game winning streak.

The Reds scored four times off Kevin Gross (5-3) in the fourth inning. Consecutive singles by Chris Sabo, Hatcher and Barry Larkin produced the first run, a Walk to Paul O'Neill loaded the bases, Benzinger hit a sacrifice fly and Oester followed with a two-run double.

The Reds added three more in the fifth when Davis greeted Bill Sempen with a two-run double after Hatcher doubled and Larkin walked. Davis scored on Benzinger's single.

Phillies 8, Braves 4
Von Hayes snapped a 6-for-31

slump with a homer, triple and single and drove in four runs as Philadelphia won its third straight. Lenny Dykstra had three hits to raise his Major League-leading average to .411 and drove in a pair of runs as the Phillies moved within one-half game of idle Pittsburgh in the National League East.

Bruce Ruffin (3-4) went five innings for the victory yielding three runs and six hits. Marvin Freeman pitched four innings of two-hit relief for his first Major League save. He gave up a seventh-inning homer to Jim Persley, his third.

Results	
American League	
Oakland	13 Milwaukee 1
Boston	5 Kansas City 1
Chicago W	5 Baltimore 2
Texas	3 Detroit 4
Minnesota	5 N.Y. Yankees 4
Cleveland	5 Seattle 3
California	4 Toronto 3
National League	
Los Angeles	15 Chicago Cubs 6
St Louis	3 San Francisco 1
Cincinnati	7 Montreal 1
San Diego	5 N.Y. Mets 4
Philadelphia	8 Atlanta 4

Samba Brazilians stay top

LONDON, May 25. (Reuters) Even if they fail to win the World Cup for a record fourth time, Brazil are likely to take the title of top entertainers both on and off the pitch in Italy next month.

With the nimblest, most colourful and most adventurous supporters in world soccer, the Brazilians are certain to capture the attention of cameras and commentators alike in Italy once they start beating out their samba rhythms.

The Brazilian players, famed for their golden-yellow shirts and curling banana kicks, particularly from set-pieces, may not be as flamboyant as in the past but they should still be watched closely in all dead ball situations when on the attack.

In the past, the great names to conjure with have been Pelé, Rivellino, Gerson, Dircen, Eder and Zico.

This time around, in front of a global television audience expected to exceed 25 billion, it is likely to be the turn of a galloping left-back called Branco who mesmerises defences with his spectacular long-range shots over, round and sometimes straight through all forms of defensive wall.

A Brazilian goal will spark a celebration that feels like a fiesta with drums, songs and rhythms to match the waving and dancing among the scantily-clad supporters in the stands. It will be a copacabana beach party in Turin every time Brazil win.

The partying will also be spectacular in Naples, where Diego Maradona will star for World Cup holders Argentina.

His individual brilliance, particularly in dribbling, can turn any game and will ignite ticker-tape

welcomes and skies filled with fire-crackers when he scores and celebrates with a dash to the touchline before slumping to his knees.

The Italians, hosts under pressure from their own supporters, will inevitably show their relief in spectacular celebrations — heaped bodies near the corner flags most likely — if they succeed in scoring and winning.

The most athletic shows could come from Gianluca Vialli, the sharp-shooting star who is expected to do so much of the goalkeeping but who has yet to establish a proven dance routine for the cameras.

Vialli may find his limelight stolen, however, by the antics of Italy's goalkeeper Walter Zenga, a 30-year-old showman who hosts his own popular television series.

His long hair, even longer shorts and larger-than-life displays in the penalty area have earned him a rare star billing for a goalkeeper.

But Zenga may not turn out to be the top number one in the tournament. That honour could end up being stolen away by one of Cameroon's two stars Joseph-Antoine Bell and Thomas Nkono.

Bell, who plays in France for Bordeaux, is known for his crowd-pleasing tactics and television viewers are sure to be given close-ups of his unorthodox goalmouth routines.

As usual, West Germany will be making their presence felt in the finals with midfielder captain Lothar Matthäus and striker Juergen Klinsmann, both now with Internazionale Milan, likely to be their stars.

Lineker launches pop plea to fans

LONDON, May 25. (Reuters) England striker Gary Lineker is using a pop song to urge fans to avoid trouble during the World Cup soccer finals in Italy next month.

Lineker, top scorer at the 1986 World Cup, has teamed up with Roy of the Rovers, a British comic strip football hero, to make a record telling fans.

The single, Europe United, in which Lineker contributes a spoken section, will be released on June 11.

Irish patch up bonus row

DUBLIN, May 25. (Reuters) Ireland's soccer squad and their football association patched up a row over players' bonus payments yesterday, the day before the squad leave for a warm-up match against Turkey ahead of the World Cup finals.

Representatives of the players and the Football Association of Ireland spent the day hammering out an agreement, though neither side would disclose its terms.

A joint statement after the talks said: "An amicable

agreement was reached in regard to the payment of bonuses for the World Cup finals. Both parties decided not to divulge the terms agreed."

The players wanted 1,000 points (\$1,500) a game for internationals and 500 points (\$750) for friendlies, backdated to the start of the 1988-89 season.

The FAI offered them 500 points for each international and 300 points (\$450) for each friendly — a total of 131,200 points (\$196,800) less than the players' demand.

Injuries hit Yugoslavs

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, May 25. (Reuters) Yugoslavia have been hit by injuries to three key players on the eve of tomorrow's soccer friendly against fellow World Cup finalists Spain.

Sweeper Srecko Katanec, who plays for Italy's European Cup Winners' Cup Sampdoria and Red Star Belgrade's Dragan Stojkovic and Dejan Savicevic all aggravated injuries during a week of intensive training in the Adriatic resort of Porec.

"Katanec and Savicevic most probably won't even come to Ljubljana, while Stojkovic plays one half," coach Ivica Osim said today.

Osim is not too concerned about the knee injuries to Katanec and Stojkovic but the recurrence of Savicevic's thigh injury is a bigger worry and the coach is considering replacing him in the World Cup squad before Tuesday's official deadline.

"We have a few more days to see, but we are ready to replace him if necessary," Osim said.

Spain, who are preparing for the World Cup in the Italian town of Tarvisio, 200 kilometres north-east of Ljubljana, have no injury problems and coach Luis Suarez intends to play his World Cup formation.

"I can't tell the definite line-up yet. I'll probably decide on Saturday morning," said Suarez. "But I can tell you that we shall play in a 1-1-3-4-2 formation, like we intend to play in the world Cup."



Argentine star

Argentina soccer star Diego Maradona wears a 'yamuka' as he turns from the 'Wall' in occupied Jerusalem, after praying. (Reuters wirephoto)

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SPORTS

Kazma set to meet Al Arabi

AL ARABI will be eagerly looking for a record 9th Amir's Cup title today when they take on skilful Kazma in the final.

Al Arabi will also be seeking compensation for losing the League title to newcomers Jahra this season and also for their defeat in the Amir's Cup final last season to arch-rivals Qadsia, who were ousted Wednesday by Kazma.

Kazma however, will be looking for their third Amir Cup title in their 9th appearance in the final. Although they missed key players like Saleh Al Mesnad and Ayman Al Hussaini through suspension, Kazma overcame a tough challenge from holders Qadsia and beat them 3-1 in their second leg match. The first match ended in a 1-1 draw. Fielding new promising players, Kazma got to a very good start, scoring two easy goals in a span of 5 minutes. Fawaz Marzouk got the first in the 15th minute and Mohammed Abdul Rahman added the second 5 minutes later.

Qadsia, who found themselves in an appalling situation, fielded injured Mohammad Ibrahim who helped them score their only goal just 2 minutes from half time.

From the only counter-attack they launched in the second half, Kazma scored their third goal in the 30th minute. Qadsia did not give up as they needed a draw to go through and continued their attacks.

Towards the end, some tense scenes prevailed over the match when the referee turned down a confident Qadsia appeal for a penalty when a Kazma defender seemed to have brought down Muayyad Al Haddad, Qadsia's main striker in the box.

The referee did not move, thinking that Al Haddad feigned his fall to win a penalty. Al Haddad protested vehemently and left the ground in anger. Immediately he was substituted. The referee had earlier turned down to similar appeals from Qadsia players when the ball struck the hands of Kazma players on two occasions very clearly in the box. The referee thought it was unintentional and turned down both appeals.

Al Arabi, however, qualified after beating Second Division Al Sahel 2-1 and 1-0. Their way to the cup final was much easier than Kazma. Kazma overcame tough challenges from League leaders Jahra, First Division Salmiya and finally holders Qadsia.

Today's match will be played under the patronage of HH the Amir and will be attended by HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah. It will be played at the Qadsia stadium in Hawaili.

Tennis dress designer Tinling dies

Seles, Edberg face early tests



Seles, to get a tough 2nd round opponent

PARIS, May 25. (AP) Men's top seed Stefan Edberg and women's second seed Monica Seles were handed early challenges today in the draw for the French Open.

Edberg, trying to win the clay-court Grand Slam tournament for the first time, was paired with Spain's Sergei Bruguera in the first round, which begins Monday, but faces a stiff test in the second against fellow Swede Jonas Svensson.

Svensson, ranked 24th in the world, was a semifinalist here two years ago, when he upset then-defending champion Ivan Lendl.

Seles, who has won 24 consecutive matches and beat top-ranked Steffi Graf last week for her fifth tournament title in a row, has a fairly easy first-round match against Katia Piccolini of Italy, ranked 100th in the world. But things should get tougher for the 16-year-old Yugoslav in the second round. There, she would face one of two veterans

who have done well in Grand Slam events - either Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden, No. 29 and a Wimbledon semifinalist last year, or Helen Keles of Canada, No. 22 and a French Open quarterfinalist the last two years.

Graf, the women's top seed, drew Pascale Paradis of France in the first round and could face 1981 French Open champion Hana Mandlikova in round 2.

The defending women's champion, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain, drew a wildcard entry from France, Noelle van Lottum, in the first round. Sanchez-Vicario is seeded third.

In the men's field, defending champion Michael Chang of the United States enters the tournament in a slump, and he wasn't helped by the draw.

Chang's first-round opponent is Casio Motta of Brazil, with another tough clay-court, Paolo Cane, next. If he gets by those two, Chang could face an even tougher challenge in round 3

against Miloslav Mecir, a former top-10 player who has slipped to No. 61 while fighting injuries.

Men's second seed Boris Becker opens against Goran Ivanisevic of Yugoslavia.

Perhaps the toughest first-round draw among the seeds went to American Jay Berger.

The men's ninth seed was paired in the first round with Alberto Mancini, an Argentine who reached the quarterfinals here a year ago and has been tearing up European clay courts this spring.

Tennis fashion designer Teddy Tinling, who shocked Wimbledon in 1949 by creating gold-laced pants for American player "Gorgeous" Gussie Moran, has died at the age of 79.

Tinling revolutionised women's tennis wear and has a leading official on their tournament circuit. He was suffering from a respiratory complaint when he died in a Cambridge Hospital, the hospital said.



French captain Philippe Ditrans (left) tries to escape a Romanian tackle. (Reuter wirephoto)

Romania score first ever win in France

AUCH, France, May 25. (Reuter) Romania, traditional underdogs of European Rugby Union, stunned former continental leaders France yesterday with a 12-6 victory, their first ever on French soil.

Three penalty kicks and one dropped goal all by fly half Gelu Ignat, the only player to shine in a lacklustre friendly match played in heavy rain, sent France sliding to their seventh defeat in 10 games.

The World Cup finalists, without some of their regulars from Clubs Agen and Racing Club de France, who meet tomorrow in the French championship final, had to be content with two penalties from Jean-Patrick Lescaur.

The defeat appeared even more threatening for France as they travel to Australia in July for a warm-up tour before next year's World Cup.

French coach Jacques Fouroux had little reason to celebrate yesterday as the Romanians took control from the start thanks to fine kicks by Ignat.

Ignat confirmed his team's domination with two penalties in the seventh and 12th minutes, whereas French counterpart Didier Casabarro missed the three opportunities he was awarded.

Firmly entrenched in the French half, Romania extended their lead a minute before half time on a third penalty kick by Ignat, who had, in the meantime, missed several dropped goal attempts.

The home side responded sufficiently at the start of the second half to allow Lescaur, France's second choice goal kicker, to reduce the deficit to 9-6 on penalties.

But a late surge from Romania and a drop goal by Ignat sealed their success.

Arrese routs Becker

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 25. (Agencies) Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of West Germany saw his team fail to reach the final of the World Team Cup tennis tournament after he suffered a humiliating defeat against Jordi Arrese of Spain.

After Sergi Bruguera had given Spain a winning start by beating Carl-Uwe Steeb 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, Arrese thrashed Becker 6-2, 6-1 to make sure that the Germans missed the final.

The Americans took advantage of this lapse by winning their first two singles matches against the Soviets to top Group One and also book a place in Sunday's final.

In the first singles Jim Courier beat Alexander Volkov 6-4, 6-2 while Brad Gilbert outplayed Andrei Cherkasov 6-2, 6-3.

Stefan Edberg, beaten finalist in Paris last year, suffered a further setback in his build-up for next week's French Open when he was beaten 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 by Martin Jaitte yesterday.

The world number two looked out of touch as world number 13 Jaitte helped clay-court specialists Argentina to a surprise victory over Sweden.

In Group B, Japan beat Denmark 4-1 and Indonesia beat England 5-0.

Commanding Xiong Guobau, 1989 Indonesian Open champion, beat Peter Axelsson 15-5, 15-9 and Wu Wenkai beat Jonas Herrgardh 10-15, 15-5, 15-7 giving China a commanding 3-0 lead before winning two doubles matches.

In the Uber Cup, South Korea, the runner-up in the 1988 Cup finals, defeated the Netherlands 5-0 and China, seeking its fourth straight title, beat Sweden 5-0 in Group A.

In Group B, Japan beat Denmark 4-1 and Indonesia beat England 5-0.

Butcher, Morris flay Kent bowlers

LONDON, May 25. (Reuter) Glamorgan, enjoying a fresh lease of life since the arrival of Viv Richards this season, put Kent's bowlers to the sword in record-breaking style in the English County Cricket Championship yesterday.

Captain Alan Butcher and his predecessor Hugh Morris broke a 31-year-old Glamorgan record as they shared an unbroken opening stand of 255 at Swansea. It beat the previous best for the first wicket against Kent of 207 by Gilbert Parkhouse and Bernard Hedges in 1959.

Taking full advantage of the bland pitch, Butcher scored 151 off 257 deliveries, hitting 20 fours, while Morris made exactly 100 from

343 balls and struck 10 fours.

Glamorgan, bottom of the 17-team championship last season but revived by the presence of West Indies captain Richards, declared 73 behind Kent's 328 for four declared. Kent were 46 for one in their second innings at the close of the second day of the three-day game.

Hampshire's Tony Middleton (104 not out) and Chris Smith (128) also shared a double century stand, against Essex at Southampton.

Smith struck 20 boundaries and faced 229 balls while Middleton hit 10 boundaries and faced 30 more balls as they put on 237 for the second wicket, lifting Hampshire to 260 for

two declared - 55 in arrears.

Essex, who lost opener John Stephenson when he retired hurt with a facial injury after being struck by a delivery from pace bowler Kevin Shine, ended the day on 78 for two - 133 ahead.

Yorkshire, bit by poor early-season form, received a boost from seventh-wicket pair Peter Hartley (75) and David Byas (67), who put on 140 to scrape a first innings lead of 15 against Derbyshire at Chesterfield.

However, Derbyshire captain Kim Barnett hit a sparkling 93 not out in 96 balls to thrust his team into a strong overnight position of 148 for one.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Chess player

BEIJING, May 25. (Reuter) China, the world's most populous nation, has finally produced chess champion worthy of the title grandmaster in the eyes of the International Chess Federation, Ye Rongguang, 27, was the first Chinese person to be given the coveted title after his international grade score reached 2,500 points.

Gardner injured

NUERBURGRING, West Germany, May 25. (Reuter) Former World Champion Wayne Gardner will miss both the West German and Austrian 500cc motorcycle Grands Prix after fracturing his foot in nine places in a crash during practice.

Air strike

ROME, May 25. (Reuter) Italian air traffic controllers have called a strike for the eve of the World Cup soccer finals next month, when thousands of fans are expected to arrive for the championships. The controllers union said yesterday that staff at Rome's main Fiumicino airport would strike for six hours each day on June 4, 5, and 6.

Cycling race

VALLOMBROSA, Italy, May 25. (AP) Italy's Gianni Bugno won the seventh stage of the Italian Cycling Tour in impressive form yesterday, extending his overall lead.

Cup warm-up

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 25. (Reuter) Andreas Brehme will need all his experience to sort out the West German defence when he earns his 50th cap in a World Cup warm-up game against Czechoslovakia tomorrow.

Swedish manager

STOCKHOLM, May 25. (Reuter) Sweden manager Olle Nordin hopes to find the answers to troubling questions in defence, midfield and attack when his team meet Finland in their last World Cup soccer warm-up on Sunday.

5-year contract

LEEDS, England, May 25. (Reuter) All Black full-back John Callaghan switched rugby codes today when he signed a five-year contract with Leeds Rugby League club in a world record deal worth more than £300,000 (\$510,000).

British athletes

LONDON, May 25. (UPI) Britain's top athletes are facing a pay cut - despite massive sponsorship sums being injected into the sport. A total of £450,000, in appearance money, will be paid this season by the British Board and Amateur Athletic Association.

Cup security

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, May 25.

Qadsia withdraws

(Continued from Page 1)

and neither the referee nor the linesmen saw the incident. After the match, Kazma lodged a protest with the Kuwait Football Federation which decided to lift the bookings on two Kazma players, thus allowing them to take part in Wednesday's game, and suspended the Qadsia player, Walid Al Fajri, for kicking the Kazma player without ball, in spite of the fact that he was not cautioned by the referee.

In Wednesday's match, Kazma won 3-1 and minutes before the end, Qadsia almost withdrew from the match. Their leading striker Murayad Al Haddad left the field in anger after a strong appeal for penalty was turned down by referee Issa Al Jassas. Qadsia players appealed for penalties on two earlier occasions claiming handballs by Kazma players in the box.

Yesterday, the KFA turned down

a Qadsia protest against the fielding of two Kazma players who received two bookings and thus should have been suspended for one match.

Yesterday, the referee waited for 15 minutes, the legal time - and after Qadsia failed to turn out for the match, declared the match ended in favour of Al Sahel, who incidentally won the third position in the Amir Cup competition for the first time in the club's history.

The board of directors of Qadsia Sports Club issued last night a statement explaining their position. The statement said that according to all rules of football the KFA board of directors has no powers to cancel bookings made by a referee against players.

The statement went on to say that as two Kazma players played in Wednesday's match after getting two bookings, Qadsia must be considered winners and qualified to play the final.

England win

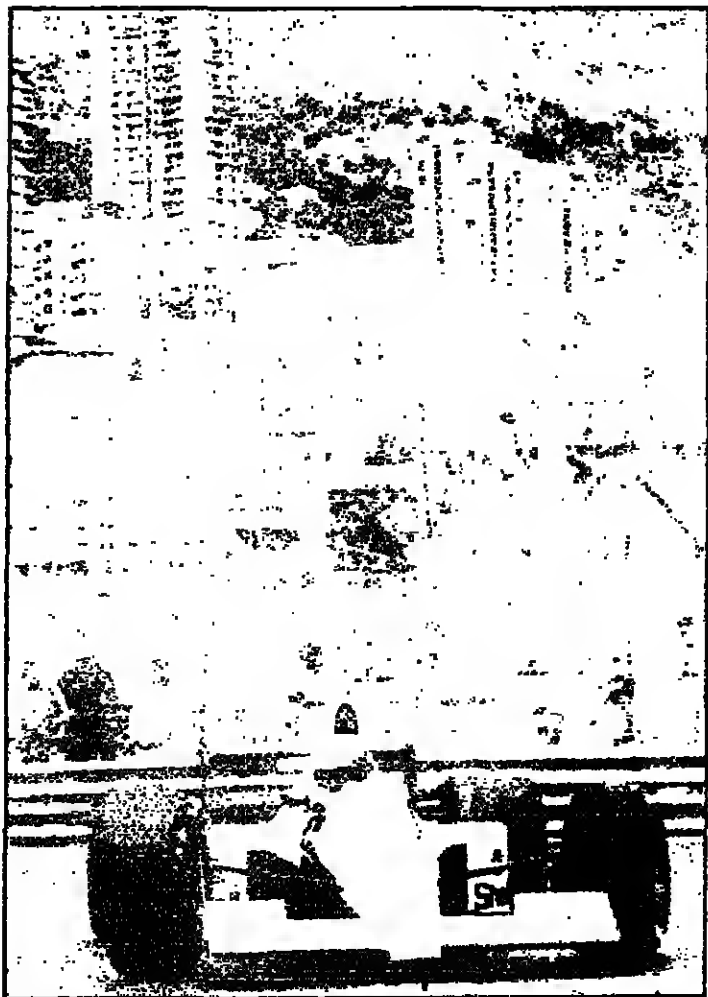
LONDON, May 25. (Reuter) England beat New Zealand by six wickets in the second and final one day (55 overs) cricket international at the Oval today.

Scores: New Zealand 212 for six innings closed. England 213 for four in 49.3 overs. (See details tomorrow).

England manager

LONDON, May 25. (Reuter) Graham Taylor is the favourite to succeed Bobby Robson as England manager after the World Cup soccer finals. (See also Page 22)

Senna shatters Monaco lap record



Senna on his way to the lap record. (Reuter wirephoto)

MONTE CARLO, May 25. (Reuter) Brazilian Ayrton Senna twice shattered his own qualifying lap record yesterday as he secured provisional pole position for the Monaco Grand Prix with a devastating exhibition of his high-speed driving skills.

Senna, in a McLaren, clocked a fastest time of one minute 21.797 seconds during the first official qualifying session for Sunday's race.

He was the only driver to break the previous best time which he set in grabbing pole position last year.

His Honda-powered McLaren team-mate Gerhard Berger of Austria was second quickest and shared the front row of the provisional grid after recording a best lap time of 1:23.001 round the 3.328-km street circuit in the Mediterranean principality.

Frenchman Jean Alesi, a renowned street-fighter who has won twice previously at Monaco in the prestigious Formula Three race, finished the day as third quickest with a best time of 1:23.372 in his nimble and impressive Pirelli-clad Ford-powered Tyrrell.

He shares the second row provisionally with compatriot Alain Prost's Ferrari. The reigning world champion, struggling to get the best out of his Ferrari on the twisting, hilly circuit,

clocked 1:23.449.

Belgian Thierry Boutsen was fifth quickest in a Williams and Italian Pierluigi Martini, making a rapid comeback after cracking his heel in an accident at the San Marino Grand Prix two weeks ago, was sixth fastest in a minardi.

Italian Riccardo Patrese, the winner at Imola, was unable to improve on the eighth best time and Briton Nigel Mansell, in the second Ferrari, had an equally frustrating time, finishing 10th quickest on the provisional grid.

On a warm, but cloudy, afternoon, Briton Derek Warwick and Alesi were quickest in the early minutes of the session before Senna, on his third lap on

his first set of qualifying tyres, eclipsed his previous record of 1:22.308 for the first time.

Senna clocked 1:21.877 and this put him more than a second clear of all his rivals on a circuit where the traffic is a notorious problem. Alesi improved his time, but Berger with a lap only marginally less impressive than Senna's gained his place on the front row midway through the session.

Senna proved his mastery of the circuit again 10 minutes from the end when, on his second set of tyres, he clocked 1:21.797 to a gasp from the crowds packed up to the wire catch fences around the swimming pool in the harbour.



Prost signals to pit technicians during the final lap. (Reuter wirephoto)

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